IMT Nuremberg Archives

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International Court of Justice

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Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal, in the matter of: The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, against Hermann Wilhelm Goering, et al, Defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany, on 28 January 1946, 1000-1245, Lord Justice Lawrence, presiding.

M. DUBOST (Counsel for France): With the authorization of the Court, I should like to proceed with this part of the French expose by hearing a witness, who, for nearly three years, lived in concentration camps.

THE PRESIDENT: Would you stand up, please? Do you wish to swear the French oath? Will you tell me your name?

THE WITNESS: Marie Couturier.

THE PRESIDENT: You swear to speak without hate nor fear? Will you repeat after me: I swear to speak without hate nor fear --

THE WITNESS: I swear to speak without hate nor fear --

THE PRESIDENT: To state truth --

THE WITNESS: To state truth --

THE PRESIDENT: All the truth --

THE WITNESS: All the truth --

THE PRESIDENT: Only the truth --

THE WITNESS: Only the truth --

THE PRESIDENT: Raise the right hand and say "I swear".

THE WITNESS: I swear.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY M. DUBOST:

Q Is your name Madame Valliant Couturier? You are the widow of Mr. Claude Valliant Coururier? You were born in Paris on 10 November 1912?

A Yes.

Q And you are of French nationality, born of French nationality and of parents who themselves were of French nationality?

A Yes, sir.

Q You are a Deputy at the Constituent Assembly?

A Yes.

Q You are a Knight of the Legion of Honor?

A Yes.

Q You have just been decorated by General Legentilhomme Aux Inlalides?

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Q Were you arrested and deported? Will you please give your testimony?

A I was arrested on 9 February 1942 by the French police of Marshal Petain, who delivered me to the German authorities at the end of six weeks. I arrived on 20 March at the prison of Sante in the German sector. I was interrogated by the Gestapo on the 9th of June, 1942. At the end of my interrogation they sought to have me sign a declaration, which was not in conformity with what I stated. I refused to sign it. The officer who was interrogator --

THE PRESIDENT: You are going a little bit too fast.

A (continuing) As I refused to sign the statement, because it was not in conformity with what I said, the German officer who was questioning me threatened me, and when I told him that I was not afraid of death nor of being shot, he said, "But we have at our disposal means that are far worse than merely the shooting of people in order to cause their death," and the interpreter said to me, "You do not know what you have just done. You are going to leave for a concentration camp in Germany. One never returns from there."

Q You were then led to jail?

A I was taken back to the Sante prison. I was able to communicate, although I was kept incommunicado, through the canals and through the window. I was in a cell next to those where George Politzer, the philospher, and a physicist, Jacques Solomon, were incarcerated. Mr. Solomon is the son-in-law of Professor Langevin, one of the first to have studied atomic disintegration. George Politzer stated to me through means of the channels that during his interrogation, after having been tortured, he was asked whether he would not write pamphlets -- theoretical pamphlets--for National Socialism. Inasmuch as he refused, he was told that he would belong to the first train of hostages that were to be shot. As for Jacques Solomon, he was also horribly tortured, and then he was thrown into a dungeon from which he emerged on the day of his execution to say goodbye to his wife, who likewise had been under arrest and who was in the Sante prison, and she told me in Romainville, where I found her again when I left the prison of the Sante, that when she came close to her husband to kiss him goodbye he uttered and moaned and said, "I cannot take you in my arms, because I can no longer move my arms."

Every time that the internees returned from their questioning one could hear through the windows, the moans of those people, and it was impossible for them to make any movements.

For the same five months which I spent at the prison of Sante, several times they came to fetch hostages to shoot them. When I left the prison of the Sante

on the 20th of August, 1942, I was escorted to the Fortress of Romainville, which was a camp for hostages. There I was twice present when they seized hostages, on the 21st of August and the 22nd of September. Among the hostages who were taken away there were the husbands of the women who were with me. They left for Auschwitz. Most of them died there. These women, for the most part, had been arrested only because of the activity of their husbands. They themselves had participated in no activity.

Q You left for Auschwitz at what period?

A I left for Auschwitz on the 23rd of January, 1943, and I arrived there on the 27th.

Q Did you belong to a convoy?

A I did belong to a convoy of 230 French women, amongst us, Danielle Casanova. She died since then. So did Marie Politzer and Helene Solomon. There were some elderly women.

Q Please tell us what their social philosophy was?

A They were intellectual women. They were school teachers--a little bit of all, coming from everywhere. Helene Politzer was a doctor; she was the wife of Politzer; Helene Solomon is the wife of the physicist Solomon. She is the daughter of Professor Langevin; Danielle Casanova was a dental surgeon. She had a great influence

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amongst the women. She organized the resistance movement amongst the wives of prisoners.

Q How many of you returned?

A Of the 230, only 49 came back. In the convoy of these women, I remember one woman who was 67 years old, and she had been arrested because she had kept in her kitchen the shotgun of her husband, which she kept as a souvenir and she had not declared it. She died at the end of fifteen days at Auschwitz.

THE PRESIDENT: When you said only 49 came back, did you mean only 49 remained?

THE WITNESS: No. Only 49 came back to France. There were many cripples. One was a singer who had only one leg. She was selected to be cast at Auschwitz. There was a youngster of sixteen years of age, and a school student. Her name was Clotilde de Guerin. She also died at Auschwitz. There were also two women who had been acquitted by the military tribunal of the Germans, Marie Alonzo and Marie-Therese Fleuri. They died at Auschwitz.

The trip was extremely terrible. There were 60 in each boxcar, and no food was distributed; no liquid was given to us during the trip. At various stops we asked for something from the Lorraine soldiers, who had been enrolled in the Wehrmacht and were our guard. We asked them when would we arrive. They replied, "If you knew where you are going you would not be so anxious to arrive."

We arrived at Auschwitz at dawn. They broke the seals on our boxcars and we were brought down with blows of butts of guns. We were taken to the camp of Birkenau, which is one of the branches of the Auschwitz camp. It is an immense plain, which in the month of January was frozen. We made the trip pulling our own luggage, and then, as we passed the porch, we realized so well that there would be so little chance to come back again, because we had seen already the skeleton-like columns going to work, and as we entered we sang the Marseillaise in order to find courage.

We were led to a large barracks. Then to disinfection. There our heads were shaven and we were tattoed on the left forearm the number of the matriculation. Then we were put in a large hall in order to take a

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steam bath and a cold shower.

All of this took place in the presence of the SS, both men and women. Then clothing was given to us. They were soiled and torn -- a cotton dress and a jacket of the same material.

Inasmuch as these activities had taken several hours, we could see from the windows of the block where we were the camp of the men, and toward evening an orchestra got organized. As it was snowing, we wondered why. They were playing music. At that moment the work kommando of the men were coming into the camp. Behind each kommando there were men who carried dead bodies. As they couls scarcely drag themselves along, they were put on their feet again by blows of the butt of guns every time they faltered.

After that we were escorted to the block where we were to live. There were no beds, but merely platforms two metres by two metres, and we were nine of us who slept there without any mattress or without covers. During the whole night we remained in blocks of this type for several months. During the whole night it was impossible to sleep, because each time one of the nine women moved at all, and since all of them were sick that happened all the time, they would disturb the whole row.

At 3:30 in the morning the cries and shouts of the guards would awaken us, and with blows of sticks, and then we had to go to work. Nothing in the world would relieve one from going to the roll call; even those who were on the point of death had to be dragged there. We would remain in rows of five until dawn would break -- until about seven or eight o'clock in the morning in winter, and when there was fog sometimes until noon. Then the kommandos would start moving on their way to work.

Q Can you tell us where the roll call was made?

A For roll call there were rows of five, and then we waited until daybreak, until the women guards, the German women guards in uniform, came to proceed with the roll call. They had sticks and they beat everyone more or less haphazardly. Germaine Renaud, who was a school-teacher at Azay-Le-Rideau, in France, had her skull broken right before my eyes from a blow of a heavy stick on her head.

The work at Auschwitz consisted of clearing wrecked houses, building of roads, and, above all, the clearing of the marshes. That was by far the hardest work, since all day long we were on our feet in the water and there was the danger of falling into quicksand. Frequently one of our friends would sometimes plunge into the marsh way up to her waist.

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The men and women who stood guard over us would beat us with sticks, and they let their dogs loose upon us. Many among our friends had their legs torn to shreds by the biting of dogs. It frequently happened that I saw women torn to shreds right under my very eyes, while the SS Guard was spurring on his dogs against her and was leering at the spectacle.

The causes of death were extremely numerous. First of all, there was the lack of hygiene--total lack of hygiene. When we arrived at Auschwitz, for 11,000 internees there was only one water faucet, and the water was not drinkable, and it was not always flowing. Inasmuch as it was in the German lavabos, we could reach it only by going through the guards, who were German common law criminals, and they beat us horribly as we went by. It was therefore almost impossible to wash or to wash one's clothing.

For more than three months we remained without changing our clothes. Then there was snow. We would melt some in order to be able to wash. Later, in the Spring, when we were on our way to work, in a puddle of water we would drink; we would wash our shirt and our pants; and we would wash in this muddy water. Our companions died of thirst, because only twice a day did we get half a cup of water.

Q Please tell us specifically about the roll call at the beginning of February.

A On the 5th of February there was what is known as a general roll call.

Q In what year was that?

A In 1943; at 3:30 the whole camp --

Q 3:30 in the morning?

A Yes. The whole camp was awakened and sent on the plain, whereas normally the roll call was at 3:30 but inside of the camp. We remained on the plain in front of the camp until five in the afternoon under the snow, without receiving any food whatsoever. Then when the signal was given we had to go through the door one by one, and we were struck in the back with a stick, each one of us, in order to make us run. Those who could not run, either because they were too old or too sick, were taken with a hook and led to Block 25, which was the so-called "waiting block", before being sent to the gas chamber.

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On that day a number of French women were thus taken to the waiting block.

When all the internees were brought back to the camp, the column to which I belonged was organized to go and pick up the bodies of those who were strewn over the plain as upon a battlefield. We brought back to the yard of Block 25 the dead and the dying. They remained thus, stacked in the courtyard. This Block 25, which was the anteroom of the gas chamber, if one may say so, I know it full well, because at that time we had been transferred to Block 26 and our windows opened on the courtyard of number 25. One could see the stacks of corpses lined in the courtyard, and from time to time a hand or a head would stir amongst the corpses, seeking to free itself. It was moribund women seeking to free themselves from the stack of corpses.

The rate of mortality in that block was even more horrible than elsewhere, because, as they were condemned to death, they received food or drink only if there was something left in the kitchen; that is to say, frequently, therefore, they remained several days without receiving any food, not even a drop of water.

One of our companions, Annette , a fine young woman thirty years old, passing in front of the block, took pity upon those women who were moaning from morning until night in all languages, "Drink, drink, drink; water water." She came back to our block to find a little herb tea, and when she was passing it through the grate of the window the guard took her by the neck and threw her inside of Block 25.

My whole life long I will remember Annette . Two days later she was put on the truck which was taking the internees to the gas chamber. She held against her another Frenchman, and when the truck started moving, "Think of my little boy," she said, "if you ever go back to France." Then they started singing the Marseillaise, while the truck started moving.

In Block 25, in the courtyard, one could see rats as big as cats running about and gnawing at the corpses and attacking even the moribund who didn't have the strength to drive them away.

Another cause of mortality and of epidemics was the fact that we were given food in large red containers, which were merely washed in cold water after each meal. Inasmuch as all the women were ill, and they didn't have the strength during the night to go to the trench which was used as lavatory, and the

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approaches of which are beyond description, they used these containers for a use to which they were not intended. The next day one would pick up those containers and carry them to the refuse heap, and during the day another crew would come and recuperate them, wash them in cold water, and put them to use again.

Another cause of death was the problem of shoes. In the snow and the mud of Poland, leather shoes were completely damaged at the end of one week or two. Therefore, our feet were frozen and in contusions, so we had to sleep on our shoes, our muddy shoes, lest they be stolen, and at the time of standing for roll call one could hear cries of anguish, "My shoes have been taken from me." Then one had to wait until the whole block had been emptied to look under the table and find shoes again. Frequently the shoes one would find were for the same foot or else you had one wooden shoe and one leather shoe. That was sufficient to stand roll call but it certainly added to our anguish during our work, because it caused wounds upon our feet. Numerous were my friends who went into the infirmary because they had wounds in their legs, and they never came out again.

Q What did they do to the internees who came to roll call without shoes?

A The Jewish internees who came without shoes were immediately taken to Block 25.

Q They were gassed then?

A Yes, they were gassed. They were gassed for any reason whatsoever. Their condition was, moreover, absolutely horrible. When we were stacked eight hundred within a block and

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could scarcely move, they were in blocks of similar dimensions fifteen hundred of them. .That is the Jewish women. That is to say that many of them could not sleep during the whole night or even stretch out.

Q Can you talk about the infirmary?

A To reach the infirmary one had to first proceed with the roll call.

Q Would you please indicate what the revier was in the camp?

A The revier or infirmary was the block where you put those who were sick. You cannot really give the name of hospital to that place, because it does not correspond in any way to the idea that we have of a hospital. To reach them one had first to obtain authorization from the block leader. He seldom granted such authorization. When you finally succeeded in getting it, you were led in columns before the infirmary. No matter what the weather, whether it snowed or whether it rained, even if you had 40 degrees of fever, you had to wait for several hours in line in order to be examined. Then frequently some of the patients would die outside before the door of the infirmary before they could enter the place. Even to stand in line in front of the infirmary was a dangerous thing in itself, because if the line was too long the SS came along, picked up all the women who were waiting, and took them directly to Block No. 25.

Q That is to say, to the gas chamber?

A Yes; to the gas chamber. That is why frequently the women preferred not to go to the infirmary, and they died at their task or at roll call. After the evening roll call in the winter time, every day one could find the bodies of the dead who had died along the roadside. The only advantage in the infirmary is that if you were assigned to a bed you didn't have to answer roll call. Of course, when the beds were less than one metre in width, four women in one bed, each suffering from a different disease, some who came in because they had contusions of their leg would catch typhus or dysentery.

The straw mattresses were completely soiled, and they were changed only when they were absolutely rotten. They were covered with vermin. You could see lice crawling like ants on the mattresses. During the typhus epidemic, one of the women said that she could not sleep all night because

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of the lice, and she spent the night shaking her blanket on a piece of paper. She literally was emptying the vermin on the paper, and this lasted for hours.

There were practically no medicines. Therefore, the patients assigned to beds remained their without care, without hygiene, without being washed. Those who died remained there for several hours, laying alongside those who were sick, and finally, when they were discovered, they were simply thrown over the side of the bed and they were then dragged in front of the block. There the column would come and fetch them on small stretchers, with the head and legs drooped over the side. In the morning and at night they went from the infirmary to the morgue.

During great epidemics, in 1943 and 1944, in the winter of 1943 and 44, the stretchers were replaced by organized cots, because there were too many bodies to be removed. During those periods of epidemics, from 200 to 250 cadavers each day.

Q How many people died in those days?

A During the grave epidemics of typhus in 1943 and 1944, during the winters, from 200 to 350.

Q Was the infirmary open to any of the inmates?

A No. When we came in the Jewish women could not be admitted. They were directly led to the gas chamber. At Auschwitz there were experimental blocks -

Q Would you please tell us about the disinfection of the blocks, before that?

A From time to time, in view of the filthy conditions of the blocks, and because of the vermin there, they disinfected the blocks with gas. These disinfections were the cause of many, many deaths also, because while you were proceeding with gas disinfection, the prisoners were taken to the shower and their clothes were taken away from them. Then the clothes were taken to be steamed, and the internees remained naked outside while awaiting their clothing. They even sent those who were sick, when they could barely stand upon their legs, to the showers. It is quite evident that a great many of them would die in the course of such proceedings. Those who could not move were washed all in the same basin during the disinfection.

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Q How were you fed?

A We received a few hundred grams of bread, three-quarters or half of a liter of rutabaga soup, and a few grams of margarine or a thin slice of sausage in the evening.

Q Regardless of the work that you were called upon to perform?

A Regardless of the work that we were called upon to perform. Some who had to work in the factory at Lounion, which was an ammunition factory where they made grenades and shells, received what was known as a supplemental ration when their production was satisfactory. They had to answer roll call as we did, and they were at work twelve hours in the factory. They came back to the camp after the day's tasks, and they went and returned on foot. It was an ammunition factory. I don't know to what company it belonged. It was called Lounion.

Q Was it the only factory?

A No. There was another one in Brudno, but as I did not work there I dont know what they did in that factory. The internees who were taken for Brudno never came back to our camp.

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Q. Will you tell us about the experiments?

A. With regard to the experiments, I have seen in theinfirmary, because I was employed at the revere, the line of young Jewish women from Salonica who were waiting in front of the ray room for sterilization. I know that they also operated by castration in the men's camp. With regard to the experiments carried out on one woman, I am familiar with the problem, because my friend, a woman doctor, Helene Solomon-Langevin, who has returned to France, worked for several months in that block to take care of the sick, and she always refused to participate in those experiments. They sterilized women either by inoculation or by operation; likewise also with rays. I knew of several women who had been thus experimented upon. There was a very high mortality rate among those experimented upon. Women who refused to be sterilized were sent to a hard-labor commando, that is punishment labor.

Q. Did one return from such commondos?

A. Very seldom. It was indeed an exception if one came back.

Q. Tell us about the sterilization.

A. The Germans said that they were seeking the best method for sterilizing in order to replace in the occupied countries the local population with Germans at the end of a generation; after they had won the war; after liquidating the inhabitants working for them as slaves.

Q. In the infirmary did you see pregnant women?

A. The Jewish women, when they came in in a state of pregnancy, were subjected to abortion when their pregnance was nearing maturity. After the birth they drowned the babies in a bucket of water. I know that because I worked in the infirmary, and the woman who was assigned to that task was a German nid-wife who was a common-law criminal, guilty of having performed abortion operations. After a while a doctor came, and for months they did not kill the Jewish babies. But one fine day an order came from Berlin saying that they had to be done away with. Then the women and their babies were called to the infirmary. They went up in a truck and they were taken to the gas chamber.

Q. Why did you say that an order came from Berlin?

A. Because I knew the internees who worked in the secretariat of the SS,

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in particular a Slovakian woman by the name of Hertha Rot, who is now working at UNRRA at Bratislava.

Q. And she told you that?

A. Yes, she did. And moreover, I also knew men who worked in the gas commando.

Q. You have told us about these Jewish mothers. Were there other women with children in your camp?

A. Non-Jewish women were allowed to bear their babies, and the babies were not taken away from them. But considering the horrible conditions in the camp, seldom did the babies live for more than four or five weeks. There was a block where the Polish and Russian mothers were located. One day the Russian mothers, having been accused of making too much noise, had to stand roll call all day long in front of the block, naked, with their babies held in their arms.

Q. What was the disciplinary system of the camp? Who kept surveillance and imposed discipline?

A. Generally speaking, the SS saved a good many of their own personnel by employing criminals for the surveillance of the camp. They themselves performed only supervisory functions over them. These internees were taken from the common-law criminals. They were Germans, and sometimes also of other nationalities; but most of them were of German nationality. By corruption and by denounciation and terror they succeeded in making veritable human beasts of themselves, and one had as much to complain about them as about the SS themselves. They beat us just as hard as the SS, and with regard to the SS the women were as savage as the men were. There is no difference to be drawn between the men and women. The system that was employed by the SS to lower human beings to the very lowest by terror and causing them to commit acts which must have brought shame upon them -- they succeeded in dishumanizing them, and that is what the SS thought. It took a great deal of courage to resist this atmosphere of terror and corruption.

Q. Who distributed punishments?

A. The SS leaders, women and men.

Q. What was the nature of the punishments?

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A. Corporal punishment. In particular, one of the most usual punishments was fifty blows of a stick on the back. That was administered with a machine which I saw. It was a sort of swinging system, and one SS was handling it. There were also endless roll calls during the night or also gymnastics; flat on your belly and up and down and up and down for hours. Then when you faltered you were beaten with sticks and taken to block twenty-five.

Q. What about the SS guards and the women? What was their conduct with them?

A. At Auschwitz there was a house of prostitution for the SS and also for the Kapos, that is, they were assistant guards. There was another house for the latter. Moreover, when the SS needed servants they came accompanied by the supervisor, the woman commandant of the camp. They would select during the disinfecting operation, and they designated young women, and the woman leader would pull her out of the ranks, would examine her, and make humorous remarks about her physique, and if they liked her then they would hire her as a maid, with the consent of the woman supervisor, who would say to the girl that she must obey absolutely, no matter what was asked of her.

Q. Why did they go during disinfecting?

A. Because they were all naked at the time of the disinfecting.

Q. The system of demoralization and corruption, -- was it exceptional?

A. No. In all the camps where I have been the system was identical. And I spoke to internees who came from camps where I had never been, and the same story everywhere. The system is identical no matter what the camp is. There may be slight variations. I believe Auschwitz was one of the worst. And I went also to Ravensbruch. There also was a house of prostitution, and there they also recruited among the women for the purposes of prostitution.

Q. According to you, then, everything was put into effect in order to degrade those women?

A. Yes indeed.

Q. What do you know about the transportation of Jewish women who were brought in from Romainville?

A. When we left the fort of Romainville we had left behind us the Jewish

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women who were there the same time we were. They were sent to Grancy, and then they arrived at Auschwitz, where we found them again three weeks later; three weeks after we arrived. Out of 1,200 only 125 actually came into the campt; the others went immediately to the gas chambers. Of the 125 not one was left after one month of the 125. The transports were carried out in the following manner:

At the beginning when we arrived, when a convoy of Jewish women arrived, they selected first the older people, older women, the mothers and the children, and they were put into lorries, as well as the sick or those who seemed to be of weak constitution. They only took the young women, the young girls, young men -- the latter, of course, were sent to the men's camp. Generally, out of a transport of about 1,000 to 1,5000, seldom more than 250 actually came into the camp. That was really the maximum; the rest of them were directly put away to the gas chamber. Through a system of selection they also chose women in good health between the ages of twenty and thirty who were sent to the experimental blocks, and the young firls and the women who were somewhat older, who had not been selected for this purpose, were sent to the camp and, well, like ourselves, they were tattoed and their heads were shaved.

Also during the spring of 1944 there was a block for twins.

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It was the period when large transports of Hungarian Jews came, 700,000 about. Doctor Monella, who was carrying out experiments, kept the twins from all the transports, and generally regardless of their age, all twins; just so the two could be present at the same time. Then in that block you had babies and you had adults, right there. I don't know whether in addition to blood-letting and other things -- I don't know what they did to them.

Q Tell us something about the selection at the time of the arrival of the convoys. You were present?

A Yes, because when we worked at the sewing block in 1944 our block, the block where we lived, was right opposite the place where the train arrived. Instead of making the selection at the place where they arrived, there was a side line which took the train almost to the gas chamber, about one hundred yards from the stop was the gas chamber, and the train was right in front of our block, and there were, of course, two rows of barbed wire between our house and the train. We could see the cars being opened; the soldier would bring the men, women, and children out of the cars, and then you could see the heart-rending scenes of old couples being separated from one another; mothers being forced to abandon their young girls, since the young women entered the camp and the mother and child were immediately taken to the gas chamber. All of those people were not aware of the fate that was in store for them; they were merely bewildered because they were being separatef from each other, and they did not know whether they were going to their death or not.

In order to make the welcoming -- if I may say -- pleasant, that is to say, in June and July 1944 there was an orchestra of internee personnel. They were all young girls, very prettily dressed in white blouses. They played, while the selecting was being made at the time of the arrival of the train, cheerful tunes like the "Merry Widow" and the barcarolle from "The Contes d'Hoffmann", and so on. Then they told them that this was a labor camp, and inasmuch as they did not enter the camp they only saw the outside there, the little platform surrounded with green flowers. Naturally, seeing only the orchestra they didn't realize what was awaiting them. Those who were selected for gas chambers, that is, the old people and children and the

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mothers, were escorted to a red-brick building.

Q These were not immatriculated?

A No, no, they were not counted at all.

Q You yourself were tattooed?

A Yes. They were taken to this red-brick building, which bore the letters B-a-d, that is to say, bath. There at the beginning they first were asked to undress, and they were given a towel before they went inside the so-called shower room. Later on, at the time of the great convoys, they didn't have time to simulate pleasantness at the arrival; they merely told them to undress and brutally took them away. I remember a little Jewish woman who lived in Paris, yes, in the Republic section of Paris. They called her Little Mary. Little Mary was the surviving member of a family of nine. Her mother and her seven sisters and brothers had been gassed upon arrival. When I met her she was employed to undress the young babies before they were taken into the gas chamber. They took the people, once they were undressed, into a room which was somewhat like a shower room, and through an opening in the ceiling they let the gas capsules come into the room. An SS would watch through a porthole the effect produced. At the end of five to seven minutes, when the gas had completed its work, he gave the signal to open the doors, and then with gas masks, men who were internees also, came inside the room and took out the corpses. They told us that the internees must have suffered before dying, because they were clasping one another in clusters and it was very difficult to break them apart. After that a team would come along; their task was to pull gold teeth. And again when the bodies had been reduced to ashes they would sift the ashes to seek to recuperate the gold

At Auschwitz there were eight crematory ovens, but from 1944 onward it was not enough. The SS had large holes dug by the internees. They would put wood in there, sprinkle it with gasoline, and then set it to flame. Then they hurled the corpses into these pits. From our cell we saw about forty-five minutes or one hour after the arrival of a transport, I would say, large flames coming out of the crematory, and the sky was reddened by the light of the pits, the burning pits.

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One night we were awakened by horrible cries. We learned the following day, from the men who were working in the sonderkommando, special kommando, that is, the gas kommando, that on the day preceding, not having had enough gas, they had hurled the children alive in the furnaces.

Q Can you tell us about the selections that were made at the beginning of winter?

A Every year at the time, toward the end of autumn, they proceeded with large-scale selections in the infirmary, because the system seemed to be the following. I saw that, because the time I spent in Auschwitz I could note that myself; and others who remained there even longer than I have also noted the same facts.

In the springtime throughout Europe they proceeded with raids to bring in men and women, and they sent them to Auschwitz. They only kept those who were strong enough to work throughout the summer. During that period naturally many died every day, but those who lived, who succeeded in holding on for six months, at the end of that time were so exhausted that they too went into the infirmary. It was at that time that the large-scale selections were made in the autumn in order not to have to feed during the winter useless mouths. Those who were too weak then were sent to the gas chamber. During Christmas 1944 -- no, 1943, Christmas 1943, when we were in quarantine, we saw, because we were opposite block twenty-five, we saw the women brought there, stripped naked, into block twenty-five. They they brought the trucks without any covering and they stacked the naked women on those lorries, as many as the lorries could hold. Then each time the truck would start the famous Hessler, -- who was at the trial, he was one of the condemned at Luneburg, -- ran behind the trucks and with his stick he would thrash the naked women who were being taken to their death. They knew that they were going to the gas chamber so they tried to escape. They were massacred. They tried to jump from the truck, and we from our own block could see the truck going by, and we heard the lugubrious clamor of all of these women who were going, knowing that they were going to be gassed. Many of them could have lived on. They had some slight desease like the itch or suffering from malnutrition, that was all .

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Q You told us, madam, a little while ago, that the deportees were from the very moment they were taken off the train even without being counted, sent to the gas chambers. What about their clothing and their baggage?

A When they were not Jews they had to carry their own luggage, and their luggage was arranged in separate blocks. But as far as the Jews were concerned, they had to leave everything on the platform of the station on arrival. They were stripped before entering and their clothing and everything that they had brought with them, and which was left on the platform, was taken to a large barracks; were gone over by the so-called Kanada Kommando there. These things were looked over, and some of the objects were sent to Germany, like jewels or fur coats and various such other objects.

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In Auschwitz some Jewish women were sent with their whole families and they were told that that was a sort of a ghetto, and they should take with them everything that they possessed. They therefore carried considerable wealth with them. I remember with regard to the Jewish women from Salonica, that when they were arrived they were given a postal card written thereon Waldsee. Waldsee was the name given at the place of origin. That place does not exist. Then there was a printed text that they were to send to their families saying "Everything is fine; we have work to do; we were well treated; we are waiting for your arrival." I myself saw such cards, and the block secretaries had the order to distribute them among the internees in order that they might fill them out and send them to their families. And I know that following these incidents families -- I know of that only with respect to Greece; I don't know whether it happaned elsewhere -- but in the case of Greece and also Salonica, whole families came over at the recruiting office in Salonica to go and join the people who had been sent into Germany; their only relatives who had been sent into Germany.

I remember a woman who was a teacher in Salonica who saw her father arrive there.

Q Will you tell us about the Bohemian camps?

A Right next to our camp there, right on the other side of the barbed wire, three metres apart, were two camps; one for Gypsies, which in 1944, about August or so, was completely gassed. These Gypsies came from all over Europe under the domination of Germany. On the other side also there was the so-called family camp. They were jews from the ghetto of Theresienstadt who had been taken there. Contrary to our case, they had nothing to do nor were they shaved. Their clothes were not taken away from them, and they didn't have to work. They lived that way for about six months, and at the end of six months they gassed the whole family camp. And a few days later another camp was gassed, and these were Jews; and a few days later another large transport came from Theresienstadt, also Jewish families, and at the end of six months they too were gassed away as were the first.

Q Would you, madam, please give us a few details on what you were able to see when you were on the point of leaving the camp? Under what

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circumstances you left the camp.

A We were put in a quarantine before leaving Auschwitz.

Q When was that?

A We were in quarantine for ten months; from the 15th of July 1943, yes, until 1944, May 1944. And then for two months in the camp, and then we went to Revensbruch.

Q These were all the French women survivors of your convoy?

A Yes, that's right. From the Jewish woman who came from France in July 1944 we learned that a large campaign had been carried out by the London radio in which they spoke of our convoy, naming Marie Politzer, Helene Solomon-Langevin, and myself. And following this we know that orders were given from Berlin to put the transport of French women under better conditions. We therefore were put in quarantine. That was a block situated opposite the camp outside the barbed wire. I must say, that it is to this quarantine that the forty-nine survivors owe their survival, because at the end of four months there were only fifty-two of us. Therefore, we could not have survived eighteen months of this regime had we not had the ten months of the so-called quarantine. This quarantine was organized because typhus was then in the camp. One could not leave the camp without being authorized to do so. You had to spend fifteen days in quarantine because of the typhus, and that was the normal duration from the incubation period for this type of typhus. Therefore, as soon as the papers arrived announcing that an internee was probably going to be set free she was sent to quarantine, where she remained until the order of liberation was completed. That sometimes took several months. During this period, the minimum of two weeks, there was a policy of liberating the common-law criminals and the German anti-social characters in order to send them as laborers in factories of Germany. It is therefore impossible to imagine that in Germany they could have been unaware of the fact that there were camps of concentration and what was taking place in those camps such as those women had come out of. And it is difficult to imagine that they had never spoken about it. Moreover, in the factories where the internees were working the team leaders were German civilians who were in contact with the internees, and they were able to talk to them.

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The supervisor at Auschwitz, who came later with former workers who had been free laborers at Siemens in Berlin -- they were with the supervisors whom they had known in Berlin. And right in our presence they told them what they had seen at Auschwitz. Therefore it is not imaginable that it was not known in Germany.

When we left Auschwitz we could not believe our eyes, and our heart was gripped when we saw that small group of forty-nine women. And we thought of the 250 who had come in eighteen months earlier. And it seemed to us that we were emerging from hell itself; and that for the first time one hope of survival was given to us.

Q Where were you sent then?

A When we came out of Auschwitz we were sent to Ravensbruch. There we were escorted to the NN block, which meant Nacht and Nebel, that is, incommunicado. In that block with us were Polish women, 7,000 or so, who were called the rabbits, because they had been used as guinea pigs. They selected from their transports the young girls who had straight legs and who were sound of body and they were exposed to various types of operations. Some of them had parts of their bones removed from the legs; others had inoculations. I could not tell what was employed. Among those who were the subject of experiments there was a very high mortality rate. So when they came to fetch the others they refused to go to the infirmary. They were led by force to the cells, and there the professor who had come from Berlin performed the operations upon them wearing his uniform without any sort of aseptic precaution; without putting on a blouse or washing his hands or anything. There are some survivors of these rabbits. They are still undergoing great suffering. They have running wounds now, and inasmuch as the treatment to which they were exposed is unknown it is very difficult to cure them.

Q These internees, were they tattooed on their arrival?

A No. No. No. At Ravensbruch we were not tattooed; but on the other hand we had to take gynecological examination, and it was then without precaution, and with instruments frequently diseased from contact with common-law criminals and political prisoners who were mixed together.

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In block thirty-two, where we were located, there were also some Russian women prisoners of war who had refused to work voluntarily in ammunition factories. They had been led because of that to Ravensbruch. As they persisted in their refusal they were subjected to all sorts of brutality, such as to make them stand in front of the block the whole day long without feeding them. Some of them were sent on a transport to the bunker and to the strafblock. In the strafblock and the bunker there were internees who refused to work in war factories.

Q You are now speaking of the prisons of the camp?

A I have visited the prisons of the camp. It was like any other prison; like any other civilian prison.

Q How many French women were put in that camp?

A About eight to ten thousand.

Q How many women were there all told?

A At the time of liberation the number of immatriculations were 105,000 or more. There were executions in the camp. They were called -- the selection was made by the calling of numbers in the morning, and then they were sent to the commandant, and then one never saw them again. A few days later the clothing was brought

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back to the selection room where they kept part of the clothing of the internees, and after a while their tags would--their file would disappear from the filing room of the camp.

Q The system of internment was the same as in Auschwitz?

A No. In Auschwitz obviously quite visibly the purpose was extermination. they did'nt worry about the total yield, they cared--all you had to do was to be able to stand up from morning to night; whether you carried one brick or ten bricks. We realized that the labor was insignificant. They used human beings as slaves; to really kill them. That was the purpose of the whole camp. It was a camp of selection. When the transports arrived at Ravensbruch they were shipped quite rapidly to ammunition factories, to powder factories, or to build landing fields, and to dig trenches.

To leave for the ammunition factories, this was the procedure: The factory managers came themselves, and accompanied by SS, to select the people they wanted. It seemed like a slave market. They would feel the muscle; they would look at the countenance of the inmate; and then they made their selection. Then they would pass a medical examination. They were stripped, of course, and they decided whether or not one was physically fit to go to work in the factories. After a while the medical examination was really a formality, because they took anyone. The work was most exhausting because of the lack of nourishment and of sleep, and also the twelve full hours of labor which had to be performed. Then in addition to that we had to stand roll call in the morning and in the evening. In Ravensbruch proper there was the Siemens factory where they manufactured telephone equipment and various instruments for Radio. Then there were shops inside of the camp for camouflage and for the fabrication of various utensils used by soldiers.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we better break off now for ten minutes.

(A recess was taken from 1130 to 1140 hours.)

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Q Have you seen any SS chiefs making visits at the camps of Ravensbrueck or Auschwitz?

A Yes.

Q Do you know if any governmental officials, German governmental officials came to visit these camps?

A I know it only as far as Himmler is concerned.

Q You do not know whom?

A Aside from Himmler I do not know.

Q Who are the guards at these camps?

A At the beginning it was only SS.

Q Will you please speak more slowly to enable the interpreters to follow you.

A At the beginning it was only SS men but from '44, the Spring of '44 on the young SS, many companies were replaced by elder men of the Wehrmacht at Auschwitz and at Ravensbrueck, also, we were guarded by soldiers of the Wehrmacht from 1944 on.

Q You can testify, therefore, that on the order of the German General Staff, the German Army was connected with the atrocities which you have described?

A . Obviously, since we were likewise guarded by the Wehrmacht, it could not be without their orders.

Q Your testimony is formal and envisages acts both by the SS and the Wehrmacht?

A Absolutely.

Q Will you tell us of the arrival at Ravensbrueck about 1944 of Hungarian Jews who had been arrested en masse? You were in Ravensbrueck at that time?

A Yes.

Q So you can give testimony as to this period?

A Yes. There was no longer any room in the blocks and the prisoners were already sleeping four in a bed, so there was raised, in the middle of the camp, a large tent. In this tent staw was placed and the Hungarian

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women prisoners were led into this tent. They were in a frightful condition. There were many frozen feet because they made a good part of the trip - they had been evacuated from Budapest and a good part of the trip they had made on foot in the snow. A great number had died on the way.

Those who arrived at Auschwitz were led to this tent and a great number died. Every day a squad came to fetch the corpses in the tent. One day, on coming back to my block -

THE PRESIDENT: Madam, are you speaking of Ravensbrueck or of Auschwitz?

THE WITNESS: Now I am speaking of Ravensbrueck. It was in the winter of 1944, I think about November or December - I can't be too exact about this because in the concentration camps it is very difficult to give a precise date, since a day of torture followed a day of torture like the last. The monotony made it very difficult to keep track of the time.

One day, therefore, as I was saying, I was passing in front of the tent when it was being cleaned and I saw in front of it a pile of smoking manure. All of a sudden I realized that it was human manure, for the unfortunate women no longer had the strength to drag themselves to the comfort station and so they had to live in this filth.

Q Under what conditions were the people working in the workshop in which the uniforms were made? This was the workshop of the camp wasn't it?

A Yes, it was called the "Schneiderei eins." They made two hundred trousers per day. There were two crews; one day and one night crew; twelve hours of work per crew.

The night crew at the beginning, at midnight when the work had been done, they were given a piece of bread. This afterwards was eliminated. The work was at a very rapid pace. The prisoners didn't even have time to go to the toilets. During the night and in the daytime, they were terribly beaten by the SS, the SS women as well as the SS men, because a needle broke or because the thread was of bad quality or because the machinery stopped or simply because these men or women didn't like their looks.

Towards the end of the night one saw that these women were so exhausted that every movement was painful to them. Their brows were beaded with pers-

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peration; they could hardly see. When the amount of work was not reached the chief guard would beat the whole row of women one after another so that the last women would wait petrified with horror, waiting for their turn.

When one wanted to go to the infirmary one needed the SS authorization. The SS very seldom gave it and if the doctor dispensed the woman from work for a few days it very often happened that the sick woman was fetched in her bed by the SS to put put back at the machine.

The atmosphere was frightful because one couldn't open the windows because of the blackouts and there was no ventilation whatsoever. All those who worked at the "Schneiderei eins" after a few months would become skeleton-like; would begin to cough; their sight began to fail; they had nervous fits caused by the fears of the blows.

I know the conditions of this workshop very well because my friend, Marie Rubiano, a young French girl, who had spent three years in the Kettbus prison, on arriving in Ravensbruecke had been sent to the "Schneiderei eins" and each evening she would tell me of her martyrdom. One day, exhausted, she was allowed to go to the Revier and on that day the German Schwester Erika was in a less bad humor than usual and she was sent to be examined. Her two lungs were very badly diseased. She was sent to the block of the tuberculars. This block was particularly terrible because tuberculars, not being considered as workers who could be recovered, they were not taken care of and there was not even personnel to wash them. There were hardly any medicines.

Little Marie was put into the room of those who were considered hopeless. She spent a few weeks there and she had not even the courage to struggle to live. I must say that the atmosphere of this room was particularly depressing. There were very many of them, several to a

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beds and beds in three tiers, in a superheated atmosphere, lying between prisoners of different nationalities, so that they could not even talk to one another. Also, the silence of this antechamber of death was broken only by the moans of the German women who did the services and from time to time by the smothered sobs of the little girl who was thinking of her mother, of her country that she would never see again.

Yet, Marie Rubino did not die fast enough for the SS, so that one day, Dr. Winkelmann, the specialist of selections in Ravensbrueck, put her on the black-list and on the 9th of February, 1945, with seventy-two other tubercular women, six of whom were French, she was lifted into the truck for the gas chamber.

During this period in all the infirmaries, the selections were made and all the sick were sent to the gas chamber, all who seemed unlikely to recover so that they could be used for work.

The Ravensbrueck gas chamber was just behind the wall of the camp, beside the crematorium. When the trucks came to fetch the prisoners we heard the sound of the motor through the camp and it would stop just beside the crematorium, whose chimney reached above the high walls of the camp. At the time of the liberation I went to this place and I visited the gas chamber, which was a wooden barracks, hermetically sealed and within there was still the unpleasant odor of the gas. The gas that was used -- I know in Auschwitz in any case -- was the same that was used to gas the blocks against lice. They left little pale green crystals as traces. After opening the windows of the block they were swept out. I know these details because the men used for the disinfection of blocks against lice were in contact with those who gassed human beings and they told them it was the same gas.

Q Was this the only means used to exterminate the prisoners in Ravensbrueck?

A No. At Block 10 there was likewise experimentation with white powder. One day the German Schwester Martha arrived in the block and distributed to twenty patients a powder. After this the patients fell into a deep sleep. Five or six were seized with fits of vomiting

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and this is what saved their lives. In the course of the night little by little the sound of breathing stopped and the patients died. I know this because I went every day to visit French women in this block, because two of the nurses were French and the woman doctor, Louise Le Porte of Bordeaux, could likewise testify to this.

Q Was it often that this happened?

A During my stay this was the only case within the infirmary itself but the system was likewise used at the Jugendlager, called thus because it was a former reform school for young German delinquents.

Towards the beginning of the year 1944 Dr. Winkelmann, no longer satisfied with making selections in the Revier, these selections were likewise made in the blocks. All the prisoners had to answer roll-call in bare feet and show their chests and their legs. All those who were too old, ill, too thin, or whose legs were swollen with edma, were set aside, and then sent to this Jugendlager, which was a quarter of hour away from the camp of Ravensbrueck. I visited it upon the liberation.

In the blocks an order had been sent out to the effect that the old women and the patients who could not work should be enrolled for the Jugendlager, where they would be much better off; where they would not have to work; where there would be no roll-call. We found out later, through some people who worked at the Jugendlager -- the chief of the camp was a woman I knew from Auschwitz, named Bensenvitz -- and from a few of these survivors, one of whom is Irene Auclaire, a French woman living in Drance 17, Rue de la Liberte, who was repatriated at the same time that I and of whom I had taken care after the liberation. Through her we found out details about the Jugendlager.

Q Could you tell us Madam, if you can answer this question, the SS doctors who made this selection, were they acting on their own or were they obeying orders?

A They were obeying orders received, since one of them, Dr. Lukas, refused to participate in the selections and was withdrawn from the camp and from Berlin was sent Dr. Winkelmann, who replaced him.

Q Are youpersonally aware of this fact?

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A He is the one who said it to the chief of the block when he left and Dr. Louise Le Porte.

Q Could you give us some information on the condition in which the men of the camp at Ravensbrueck were in on the morning of the liberation?

A I think it is better to speak first of the Jugendlager, because, chronologically, this comes before.

At the Jugendlager the women, I mean the old women and the ill who had left our camp, were put in blocks where there was no water and where there were no conveniences, on piles of straw on the ground, so close together that one couldn't pass between them, so that at night it was impossible to sleep because of the coming and going and the prisoners would dirty one another as they passed. The straw was rotten and swarming with lice. Those who could stand up would make the roll-call for several hours. In the month of February their coats were taken away from them, and they would continue to answer roll-call, which greatly increased the death rate.

They received by way of food only a thin slice of bread and a half quart of retabaga soup and the only drink that they had for twenty-four hours was half a quart of tea. They had no water to wash nor to drink, nor to wash their eating utensils.

In the Jugendlager there was likewise an infirmary where all those who could no longer stand up were placed. During the calls, periodically, the "Aufsehrein" would choose prisoners who would be undressed and who were allowed to keep only their shirts. Their coats were given back to climb into trucks and they would go off to the gas chambers. A few days later the coats would come back to the camp, that is to say, the clothing store-room. There were marked "Mitwerder." The prisoners who worked at this store told us that "Mitwerder" did not exist, that it was a nomenclature for the gas chambers.

At the infirmary periodically white powder was distributed and the sick would die like those in Block 10, of which I spoke a while ago.

THE PRESIDENT: The details of the witness' evidence as to Ravensbrueck seems to be very much alike, if not the same, as at Auschwitz. Wouldn't it

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be possible to now, after hearing this amount of detail, to deal with the matter more generally, unlessthere is some substantial difference between Ravensbrueck and Auschwitz.

M. DUBOST: I think there is a difference which the witness has pointed out to us, which is that in Auschwitz the prisoners were simply exterminated; that it was simply an extermination camp, whereas at Ravensbrueck they were interned to work, were exhausted with work to the point where they died.

THE PRESIDENT: If there are any other distinctions between the two, no doubt you will lead the witness, I mean ask the witness about those other distinctions.

M. DUBOST: I shall do so.

(By M. Dubost)

Q Could you tell the Tribunal in what condition

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the men's camp was found at the time of the liberation and how many survivors there were?

A When the Germans left they left two thousand sick women and a certain number of volunteers, including myself to take care of them. They left us without water and without light. Fortunately the Russians arrived the following day. We therefore went to the men's camp and there we found a sight which is impossible to describe. They had been for five days without water. There were eight hundred seriously ill, three doctors and seven nurses, who were unable to pull the dead from the sick. Thanks to the Red Army we were able to transport these sick into clean blocks and to give them food and care. But unfortunately I can give the figure only for the French.

There were four hundred when we found the camp and there were only one hundred and fifty who were able to return to France; for the others it was too late in spite of the care we gave them.

Q Were you present at the executions and do you know under what conditions were they carried out?

A I did not assist at any executions. I know only that the last one that took place was on the 22 of April, a week before the arrival of the Red Army. The prisoners were sent, as I said, to the Kommandantur; then their clothes would return and their cards were taken out of the file.

Q Is this situation in these camps exceptional or do you consider it was a part of a system?

A It is difficult to give an exact idea of the concentration camps when one has not been in them once because one can only cite examples of horror but one cannot give the impression of this slow monotony. When one asks what was the worst, it is impossible to answer because everything was atrocious. It is atrocious to die of hunger, to die of thirst, to be ill, to see around you all your companions dying without being able to do anything; to think of those children of one's country that one will never see again and at times we wondered ourselves if it was not a nightmare, so completely unreal did this life seem to us, so horrible.

We had a will for months and years; all that we could hope for was that a few of us would be able to come out to be able to tell the world what the Nazis were like. Everywhere as in Auschwitz, as in Ravensbrueck, the companions who were in other camps related the same facts; the systematic will, the implacable will to utilize men as slaves and when they could no longer work, to kill them.

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Q Have you anything more to state?

I thank you.

M. DUBOST: If the Tribunal wishes to question the witness, she is at your disposal.

GENERAL RUDENKO: I have no questions.

DR. MARX: I speak for counsel of the SS, Attorney Babel. Attorney Babel is prevented this morning from appearing here, since he has to attend a conference with General Mitchell.

My Lords, I should like to take this occasion to ask the witness a few questions dealing with this matter.

BY DR. MARX:

Q Madam Courtourier, you declared you were arrested by the French Police.

A Yes.

Q Why were you arrested?

A Because of resistance activity.

Q I didn't hear the answer.

A Activity in the resistance movement.

Q Activity in the resistance movement. Now, a further question. Your testimony shows—please wait until my question is completed.

What preconceptions did you have, and what attitude did you take?

A What was that? What did you say? I don't understand the question.

Q What position did you occupy? Did you ever occupy an official position?

A Where?

Q For example, as a teacher or lecturer?

A Before the war?

Q Before the war, yes.

A I dont see what the question has to do with that. I was a journalist.

Q Yes. The matter is thus: In your testimony you showed great fluency in style and expression, and I should like to know whether you had such a position as teacher or lecturer.

A No, I was a photographic reporter.

Q How do you explain that you yourself came through these experiences so well that you are now in a good state of health?

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A First of all, I was liberated a year ago. In a year once has time to recover. Then, next, I was ten months, as I indicated, in quarantine, and I had the luck not to die of typhus, although I had it and was ill for three months and a half.

On the other hand, at Ravensbrueck, in the last months, as I know German, I worked to make the roll-call of the Revier so that I didn't have to be subjected to the bad weather. Out of 250, only 52 of us were left at the end of four months. I was lucky enough to come back.

Q Yes. Does your testimony concern itself only with your own observations, or did you also give testimony that was hearsay?

A Each time I pointed out in my statement when this was the case. I never said anything that was not verified at the sources, and by several persons, but the major part of my statement is based on a personal experience.

Q How is to be explained that you have precise statistical knowledge, for instance, that 700,000 Jews arrived from Hungary?

A I told you that I had worked in the offices, and, as concerned Auschwitz, that I was a friend of the Secretary of the Oberhaufseherin, whose name and address I gave to the Tribunal.

Q The assertion has been made that only 350,000 Jews came from Hungary, according to the testimony of the Gestapo Chief, Eichmann.

A I don't want to argue with the Gestapo, I have good reason to know that what it declares is not always true.

Q How were you treated personally? Were you treated well?

A Like the others.

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Q Like the others.

You said before that the German people knew of what went on in Auschwitz. What are your grounds for this statement?

A I base it, on the one hand, on the fact that when we left, the Lorraine soldiers of the Wehrmacht said to us, in the train, "If you knew where you were going you would not be in such a hurry"--

THE PRESIDENT: Madam, you are going too fast.

A (Continuing): I have this information, on the one hand, from the fact that the Lorraine soldiers of the Wehrmacht, who transported us to Auschwitz, told us, "If you knew where you were going, you would not be in a hurry to get there." On the other hand, from the fact that the German women who came out of quarantine together and worked in factories had knowledge of these facts, and they all said that they would tell on the outside.

Third, from the fact that in all the factories where Haeftlings, prisoners, worked, they were in contact with German civilians, as well as with the Aufseherin. They had relations with their families and friends, and often would tell what they had seen.

Q One more question. Until 1942 you were able to observe the behavior of German soldiers in Paris. Did these German soldiers behave altogether decently, and didn't they pay for what they took?

A I have no idea whether they paid for their requisitions.

As for the proper treatment, too many of my people were shot or massacred for me to wish to express an opinion on this subject.

DR. MARX: I have no further question to put to the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: If you have no further questions, there is nothing more to be said.

DR. MARX: Very well, I am finished.

THE PRESIDENT: There is too much laughter in the Court; I have already spoken about that.

I thought you said you had no further questions.

DR. MARX: I simply wanted to make the provision for attorney Babel that he might later take the witness under cross-examination, if that is possible.

THE PRESIDENT: Babel did you say?

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DR. MARX: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon; yes, certainly. When will Dr. Babel be back in his place?

DR. MARX: I presume that he will be back this afternoon. He is in the building. However, he must first read the protocol deposed by the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: We will consider the question. If Dr. Babel is here this afternoon we will consider the matter, if Dr. Babel makes a further application.

Does any other of the Defendants' counsel wish to ask any questions of the witness?

(No response)

M. Dubost, have you any questions you wish to ask on re-examination?

M. DUBOST: I have no further questions to ask.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the witness may retire.

M. DUBOST: If the Tribunal will allow, we shall now hear from Mr. Veith, another witness.

JEAN FREDERIC VEITH took the stand.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you calling this witness on the treatment of prisoners in concentration camps?

M. DUBOST: Yes, Mr. President, and also because this witness can give us information on ill-treatment which certain war prisoners had been victim of in concentration camps. It is not merely a question of concentration camps, but of soldiers who had been transported to concentration camps and who had received the same treatment as civilians.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you won't lose sight of the fact that there has been practically no cross-examination of the witnesses you have already called about the treatment in concentration camps? The Tribunal, I think, feels that you could deal with the treatment in concentration camps somewhat more generally than the last witness.

Are you not hearing what I say?

M. DUBOST: Yes, I hear it very well.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal thinks that you could deal with the question

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of treatment in concentration camps rather more generally now, after we have heard the details from the witnesses whom you have already called.

M. DUBOST: Is the Tribunal willing to hear this witness?

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Q What is your name?

A Jean Frederic Veith.

Q Will you repeat this oath?

Do you swear to speak without hate or fear?

A I swear to speak without hate or fear.

Q To say the truth, all the truth, and only the truth?

A All the truth, and nothing but the truth.

THE PRESIDENT: Raise your right hand.

THE WITNESS: I swear it.

THE PRESIDENT: Would you like to sit down?

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

BY M. DUBOST:

Q Will you give your name, please? Give your first name.

A Jean Veith.

I was born on the 28th of April, 1903, in Moscow.

Q Are you of French nationality?

A Yes.

Q Of birth?

A Of French parents.

Q You were a prisoner in what camp?

A I was a prisoner in Mauthausen, from the 22nd of April, 1943, until the 22nd of April, 1945.

Q Do you know about the work that was done in factories supplying the Luftwaffe with material? Who controlled these factories?

A I was in the Arbeitseinsatz Kommando, Mauthausen, from June 1943, and consequently I have seen all the matters which relate to the work.

Q Who controlled the factories working for the Luftwaffe?

A The work in Mauthausen had external camps where workers worked at Heinkel, at Messerschmitts, at Fabian, at Sauer Werke, Wien, and the working

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of the tunnel of the Abel Pass, which was by the Alpine-Montana.

Q Who controlled this work? Was it your surveyors or engineers?

A There was only as SS surveyance. The work was controlled by the engineers of the factories.

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Q Did these engineers belong to the Luftwaffe?

A I saw, on certain days, Luftwaffe officers who came to visit the Messerschmitt factories that were in the vicinity.

Q Were they able to inform themselves of the condition in which the prisoners were living and working?

A Yes, certainly.

Q Did you see any Nazi officials visiting the camp?

A I saw numerous officials; among others, Himmler, Kaltenbrunner, Pohl, Maurer, the chief of the Labor Bureau, and numerous other visitors, whose names I do not know.

Q Who told you that Kaltenbrunner came there?

A The office was opposite the open square, which overlooked the Kommandatur, so we could see the persons arriving; and the SS themselves would tell us "There is so and so; there is so and so."

Q Could the civillian population be informed of what was going on?

A Yes, it was able to be informed because at Mauthausen there was a road which was close to the quarry, one could see everything in passing on this road. Besides the workers, the prisoners worked in the factories. They were separated from the workers, but just the same they had certain contacts with them, and it was quite possible to know what their conditions were.

Q Can you tell us what you know about the trip to an unknown castle of a car containing prisoners which were never seen again?

A At a certain moment, at Mauthausen, they proceeded, by injections to eliminate the ill. It was particularly Dr. Spritzbach, who, at a given moment-- he was called Dr. Spritzbach by the prisoners because he had inaugurated the system of injections. At a given time injections ceased to be made, and at this time the people that were too ill were sent to a castle, which we later learned was called Altheim, which was officially designated as Genesungslager; that is to say, a convalescant camp. None of the people that went there ever returned. We received the lists of deaths directly from the political section of the camp. These lists were secret. All those who went to Altheim died. The figure is about five thousand.

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Q Did you see war prisoners arrive at the Mauthausen Camp?

A I saw war prisoners, certainly. Their arrival at the Mauthausen Camp, first of all, happened before the political section. As I was working at the oolerei, my office overlooked the open space, which was before the political section, where the convoys arrived. These

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convoys were immediately selected. Some were sent to the camp to be registered, and so on. Very often prisoners in uniform were put aside. These underwent special punishment and were directly handed over to the prison guards, passed through their hands, and nothing was further said of them. They were not registered in the camp. It was through the political section that this happened, which was in charge of these prisoners.

Q They were war prisoners?

A They were war prisoners. They were in uniform.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't go so fast, please.

A (continuing) They were generally men in uniform.

BY M. DUBOST:

Q Of what nationality?

A Especially Russians and Poles.

Q They were taken to your camp to be killed?

A They were taken into our camp under action.

Q Can you tell me how you found out about this action?

A What I know about Action K comes from the fact that I was directing the dolorite service in Mauthausen, and consequently I received all the transfer sheets of the various camps. And when there were K prisoners, who by mistake were transferred to us as ordinary prisoners, we would put on the transfer sheet, which we had to send through the Central Office of Berlin - no, we did not put any numbers on these sheets. The Politische Leiter gave us no indication and even tore up the list of the names if, by chance, it reached us.

Through conversations with my companions, I found out that these K actions concerned war prisoners who were taken while attempting to escape. Later this action was extended still, to soldiers, but extended to certain individuals, particularly officers caught in the countries taken by the Germans, who had escaped but who had been captured again.

Besides, all persons who were active in any way that could be interpreted as not in conformity with the desires of the Nazi Chiefs could also be subject to Action K. These prisoners arrived at Mauthausen and would disappear; that

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is to say, they were brought into the prison and were immediately executed. They would pass to the annex of the prison, which was the famous Block 20 of Mauthausen.

Q You are talking about war prisoners, are you not?

A Yes. This applies in major part to war prisoners.

Q Can you tell us about any particular execution of war prisoners taken to the Mauthausen camps?

A I cannot give you any names, but there are names.

Q Have you seen allied officers executed who were killed within 48 hours of their arrival?

A I saw the arrival of the convoy of the 6th of September; I think that is the one you are referring to. I saw the arrival of this convoy, and in the afternoon these 47 went into the quarry clothed merely in shirts and underdrawers. Shortly after, the sound of machine guns was heard, and as I came out of the office I passed behind, pretending to bring documents into another office, and with my own eyes I saw that these poor unfortunates had been shot down. Eighteen of them were executed that very afternoon, and the others were executed the following morning. All the death certificates carried the notation afterwards, "Shot while attempting to escape".

Q Do you have the list of names?

A Yes, I have the list of these prisoners.

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps this would be the best time to break off.

(Whereupon at 1250 hours the hearing of the Tribunal adjourned, to reconvene at 1400 hours).

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Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal, in the matter of: The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany, on 28 January 1946, 1400-1700, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

MARSHALL OF THE COURT: If the Court please, it is desired to announce that the defendant Kaltenbrunner will be absent from this afternoon's session on account of illness.

THE PRESIDENT: You may go on, M. Dubost.

M. DUBOST: With the permission of the Tribunal, we are going to complete the questioning of the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: Have him brought in.

(Whereupon the witness again took the stand and was questioned further by M. Dubost as follows):

Q Will you continue to testify under the oath that you already made this morning; will you furnish some additional information concerning the execution of 47 Allied officers whom you saw shot in 48 hours in the camp at Mauthausen where they were brought?

A These parachutists were shot not according to the ordinary system, which was used when the prisoners were to disappear or to be done away with. That is to say, they made them work in an exaggerated fashion. They beat them and made them carry heavier and heavier stones, and so on until either they were forced to the end of their strength and they tried to reach the barbed wire. They either went voluntarily, or they were pushed toward it, and at that time when they approached the barbed wire, and they were about one yard away, they were shot with a machine gun by the SS troops. This was the customary system used, which was called "caught while trying to escape". It was alleged that they were trying to escape.

These 47 men were shot during the afternoon on the 6 and 7 of September.

Q Do you know their names?

A The name was known to the official list because they were registered on the official registers of the camp, and since I was concerned to transmit

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or to make known all changes of names in the forces, making it known to Berlin, I saw all the lists of those who came and went.

Q Did you communicate this list to official officers?

A This list was taken by the American officers when I was at Mauthausen, after my freedom. I immediately went back to Mauthausen after my liberation, because I knew where the documents were, and at that time the American authorities had all the lists which we were able to find.

M. DUBOST: Mr. President, I have no further questions to ask the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: Does the British Prosecutor want to ask any questions?

BRITISH PROSECUTOR: No.

THE PRESIDENT: Does the United States Prosecutor?

UNITED STATES PROSECUTOR: No.

THE PRESIDENT: Do any members of the Defense Counsel wish to ask any questions?

DR. BABEL (Counsel for SS and SD): Mr. President, I was in the camp at Dachau on Saturday, and yesterday at the camp at Augsburg, Wuerthingen. I made a few discoveries there which put me now in the position to ask questions of individual witnesses which I previously was not in.

First of all, one question. I was not present -

THE PRESIDENT: Will you try to go a little more slowly?

DR. BABEL: Yes. I was not present at this morning's session because of a conference I had to hold with General Mitchell. Consequently, I could not be present during the testimony of this witness. I should like to ask one question of the witness and should like to know whether I can then later take the witness under cross-examination, or whether I should ask those questions now?

THE PRESIDENT: You can cross-examine this witness now, but the Tribunal is informed that you left General Mitchell at 15 minutes past ten.

DR. BABEL; Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: There was no reason -

DR. BABEL: Because of the conference with General Mitchell, I had to despatch a telegram and do other various pressing duties which kept me away from the Court.

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THE PRESIDENT: You can cross examine this witness, certainly.

DR. BABEL: I have, first of all, simply one question.

(Cross examination by Dr. Babel).

Q The witness has stated that the officers in question were driven toward the barbed wire. By whom were they so driven?

A They were driven towards the barbed wire by the guards, the SS guards that accompanied them, and all of the staff of Mauthausen were present. They were beaten by the SS and by one or two of the green prisoners, who were in the camp and who were the KAPO. These KAPO were very often worse than the SS.

Q Within the camp of Dachau, within the camp itself, within the barbed wire enclosure, there were almost no SS guards, and that was probably the case also in Mauthausen. Is that so?

A Within the camp there were only a certain number of SS guards, but they changed, and no one of the troops who were on guard could be unaware of what was going on since, if they weren't within the camp, they went out and then they saw from outside the camp exactly what was happening even if they weren't within.

Q Were the guards who shot at the prisoners within or without the barbed wire enclosure?

A They were placed under the guardhouses, which were in the same line as the barbed wire.

Q Could you observe from there that the officers were driven to the barbed wire by anyone?

A These guards could observe this very easily. There were several occasions that there were sentinels who refused to shoot for what they didn't consider an attempt to escape. These guards were immediately relieved from their posts, and they disappeared.

Q Did you observe that yourself?

A I didn't see them myself, but it was related to me, among others, by the Kommandofuehrer who told me that a sentinel had refused to shoot.

Q Who was the commander?

A This work commander chief was Viermann. I am not sure exactly of

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his rank. He was not Unterscharfuehrer; he was one grade below Unterscharfuehrer. His name was Viermann. He had the section in which I was at Mauthausen.

MR. BABEL: Thank you. One more question. Then I shall make an application to be able to cross examine the witness later on, and to ask the questions further, I should like that the witness be kept in Nurnberg for the purpose that I shall cross examine him later. I am not in a position now since I was not at the morning session to ask those questions because I am not familiar with his testimony of the morning.

THE PRESIDENT: You ought to have been here. If you were released from an interview with General Mitchell at 10;15, there seems to the Tribunal - to me at any rate - to be no

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reason why you shouldn't have been here whilst this witness was being examined.

DR. BABEL: Mr. President, this morning I had a conference with General Mitchell regarding certain questions that had concerned me for quite a while. General Mitchell also saw, during our talk together, that my activities are so large that it is necessary to bring in a second Defense Counsel for the SS. I have had to so extend my work here that occasionally I have had to miss a session of the Court, and circumstances made it impossible for me to be here this morning.

May I add something? So far, more than 40,000 members of the SS have made application to the Tribunal, and you can judge from that how extensive my work has been.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, no doubt your work has been extensive, but this morning, as I have already told you, General Mitchell has informed the Tribunal that his interview with you finished at 10.15, and it appears to the Tribunal that you must have known that the witnesses who were giving evidence this morning were giving evidence about concentration camps.

In addition to that, you had obtained the assistance of another Counsel, I think, Dr. Marx, to appear on your behalf, and he did appear on your behalf, and he will have an opportunity of cross-examining this witness if he wishes to do so now. The Tribunal considers that you must conclude your cross-examination of this witness now. I mean to say, you may ask any further questions of the witness that you wish.

DR. BABEL: The question is only, whether, since I am not in a position to ask the questions I should like to, I shall consequently renounce my opportunity of cross-examining the witness now.

THE PRESIDENT: M. Dubost, there may be some other German Counsel who wish to cross-examine this witness.

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M. Dubost, do you wish to address the Tribunal?

M. DUBOST: May it please the Tribunal, we have no reason to fear a cross-examination of our witness of this morning, or any witness we will produce this afternoon, at any time the Defense wishes to cross-examine him, and we are ready to request our witnesses to remain in Nurnberg as long as necessary to be prepared for any questions on the part of the Defense Attorneys.

THE PRESIDENT: Very well then. Dr. Babel, in view of the offer of the French Prosecutor to keep the witness in Nurnberg, the Tribunal will allow you to put any questions you wish to put to him in the course of the next two days. Do you understand?

DR. BABEL: Yes.

DR. KAUFFMANN (Counsel for Kaltenbrunner): Before I ask the witness the questions I have in mind, I should like to make an application. I believe that the trial will progress more expeditiously. My application is the following, and I speak also in the name of my colleagues.

Were it not well if it could be agreed that both the Prosecution and the Defense should, on the day before the hearing of the witnesses, should be informed what witnesses are to be heard? The material in the meantime has become so extensive that circumstances make it impossible to ask pertinent questions or questions that are to the interest of everyone.

As far as the Defense is concerned, we are ready to inform the Prosecution at least one day before a witness is to be heard exactly who this witness is to be.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal has already expressed its wish that they should be informed beforehand of the witnesses who are to be called and upon what subject. They hope that Counsel for the Prosecution will take note of that wish.

DR. KAUFFMANN: Yes. I thank you.

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CROSS EXAMINATION BY DR. KAUFFMANN:

Q The witness testified this morning, or rather, the witness we heard this morning and also the testimony of this witness in that one point is of particular importance. This point concerns a matter that is perhaps the most important matter in the entire trial.

THE PRESIDENT: You are not here to make a speech at the moment. You are to ask the witness questions.

DR. KAUFFMANN: Yes. It is the question of the responsibility of the German people. The witness testified that the civilian population could have known of the things that went on. Now I wish to attempt to bring out the truth in a series of questions.

Q Did civilians see executions take place? Could you answer that question?

A I was not able to be present at these executions, but they could see the corpses which were there when the prisoners came from convoys. Their bodies were strewn along the roads. When they took the bodies out of the trains the civilian population could observe them.

They could also become aware through the deportees who worked outside the camp.

Q Do you know that under penalty of death it was forbidden to inform the outer world of anything in the way of cruelties that took place within the camp?

A Yes. I spent two years in the camp, and I knew of that. I have heard witnesses who spoke of that.

Q Could you please repeat exactly what it was that you saw--this order that I just mentioned, or what was it that you saw?

A I didn't see any orders; I saw executions. That is all.

Q My question was this. Did you know that strict orders were given to the SS and to the men who carried out the executions and so on, orders that nothing could be discussed, not even inside the camp, and certainly not outside the camp of what happened inside the

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camp in the way of cruelties and so on, and that penalties of the strictest sort, even to the death penalty, were to be imposed if the people discussed such things as they saw in the camp? Did you know anything about such an order, and perhaps you can make some remarks concerning such observations on your own part.

A I know that some prisoners who were freed had to sign a statement that they would never reveal what had happened in the camp, but those who entered in contact with the population, and there were many of them, did not obey this order.

Of course, there was this crematorium, which threw a flame so high you could see it for miles away. They must have been curious what this flame was for and what produced it.

DR. KAUFFMANN: I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Does any other Counsel for the Defendants wish to ask any questions?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you tell us who the Green Prisoners were? You mentioned Green Prisoners.

THE WITNESS: Yes, these Green Prisoners were the common criminals, condemned because of infractions against the penal law, and they were a sort of an inner police within the camp. They were even more bestial than the SS themselves, and they acted as their executors. They were the ones that carried out the dirty work that the SS didn't care to dirty their hands with.

This contact with all the political prisoners was a terrible thing because they persecuted us because they realized that we could not synpathize with them. In all camps the same thing occurred. In all camps, these German criminals who served as accomplices to the SS oppressed us and humiliated us.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you wish to ask any question in re-examination?

M. DUBOST: I have no more questions to ask.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the witness can retire.

(Witness excused)

M. DUBOST: I shall request the Tribunal to authorize us to call a Norwegian witness.

It will be a French witness whom we will request the Tribunal to hear because of the difficulties of interpretation with which we are confronted insofar as the Norwegian is concerned, who speaks neither English nor French, and so we will have to have his deposition translated into French or into English, which presents certain technical difficulties, so we request the Tribunal to hear now Dr. Du Pont, a French witness.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Very well.

(Whereupon the witness took the stand)

THE PRESIDENT: Is your name Dr. Du Pont?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Will you repeat this oath after me:
Do you swear to speak without hate nor fear; to say the truth, all the truth, only the truth.

(The witness repeated the oath in French).

THE PRESIDENT: Raise your right hand and say you swear.

THE WITNESS: I swear.

THE PRESIDENT: You may sit down.

(Examination by M. Dubost)

Q Your name is Victor Du Pont?

A Yes, I am called Victor Du Pont.

Q You were born at Charmes, 1909, 9 December; you are of French nationality?

A Yes.

Q You were born of French parents?

A Yes.

Q You have won honorable distinctions; what are they?

A I have the Legion of Honor, Chevalier Legion of Honor. I have two citations from the Army and the Medal for Resistance Activity.

Q Were you deported?

A I was deported to Buchenwald the 20th of January, 1944.

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Q You remained there?

A I remained there 15 months.

Q Until the 20th of May, 1945?

A No, until the 20th of April, 1945.

Q Will you make your statement on the regime in the concentration camp in which you were interned and the purpose carried out by those who prescribed or formulated this regime?

A When I arrived at Buchenwald, I rapidly became aware of the living conditions. There was not basically any regime imposed upon the prisoners on any juridical theory. The principle which was at the basis of this regime was a principle of extermination.

Now, I say that we French who were at Buchenwald were all taken to Buchenwald without any traditional trial. In 1942, '43, '44 and '45, the decisions which were given relative to prisoners were exceptional. A great part of us were interrogated and then deported. Others were declared innocent by the interrogations, but then deported. Some were not interrogated. I'll give you three examples.

On 11 November, 1944, there were about 100 persons who were arrested at Grenoble during a manifestation having for its purpose the commemoration of the Armistice. They came to Buchenwald, where a great part died.

The same case in the village of "Versheme in Guran" in October, 1943. I saw them also at Buchenwald.

The same case at St. Cloud in April, 1944. I saw these comrades arrive in August 1944.

Hence, together at Buchenwald were various elements who were assembled there under the laws of war. There were also assembled whole categories of people who obviously were innocent. Either they had been declared innocent after the interrogation or not even interrogated. Finally, there were some who were political prisoners. They were deported because they belonged to parties who had struggled against Germans.

That doesn't mean that the interrogations were any jests. The interrogations which I underwent and which I saw others undergo were particularly inhuman. I shall enumerate a few of the methods.

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Every imaginable type of blow. People were drowned in bathing tubs; squeezing of testicles; hangings; finally, family tortures. I have particularly seen a wife tortured before her husband. On the other hand, children were tortured before their mothers. I'll cite a name: Francis Bouraille from Paris was tortured before his mother. Once in camp, for all these men, the conditions were the same.

Q You spoke of extermination, or purging - of racial purging for political reasons, for official reasons. By what criterion was this carried out?

A At Buchenwald it was where you found under the same regime the same political prisoners, the same racial, and same gypsy and Jew prisoners, and, also, for social reasons criminally they were there, criminals of all nations, Germans, Czechs, French, Russians, and so on, who lived together with the others, and were subject to the same regime. The purge does not imply necessarily the idea of extermination, but this purge was brought about through the extermination of which I just spoke. It began for us in certain phases, and there was quite an advancement in each phase about which I shall try to cite an example.

In 1944 a few Gypsy children arrived at Buchenwald, several hundred, I would say. By some administrative mystery - by what administrative mystery we never knew, but during the winter of 1944 the first children were all brought together to be sent to be gassed. It is one of the most tragic memories of my deportation, with these children knowing perfectly well what they were waiting for, and who had to be driven towards the gas cars; and screaming and crying as they were driven towards the gas cars.

In other cases the extermination was very progressive. For example, when one convoy arrived, the advance convoy which came up from Compiegne, 24 January 1944 and arrived 26 January, in that transport car which I saw were twelve dead and eight mad out of one hundred persons who were in the car. I saw numerous transports which arrived in this way. Every car in transportation was different but of the same phenomenon; as soon as the convoy arrived enumeration was made of the number of Jews who arrived. Then they were placed in quarantine, after which they were exposed to cold, or, from weakness died. Then there was the extermination

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through work. Some were chosen to send to work commanders, such as Dorrar, a.s.o. After their departure had taken place every day, and the quarters were filled, they returned to Buchenwald to bring back to the place the corpses. I even saw and I was present at autopsies, and I shall tell you the result of those. These people were at extreme stages, those who had even had one month, two months and three months exposure, and frequently you would notice particular lesions, very acute tubercular lesions. At Buchenwald there were ones who had to work, and there was every possible means of only ones conscience surviving these exterminations at Buchenwald. The exterminations at Buchenwald was assured by a screening which was carried out by a chief who did the screening, a doctor.

Q Excuse me for interrupting. This chief doctor was what nationality?

A This chief doctor was a SS German.

Q Are you sure?

A Yes, I am sure.

Q Does that mean that you know personally about the testimony you are bringing out?

A The testimony I am bringing out was from my own personal observation. This selection was assured by Schilowski who had selected those informed and ill persons. They were sent before January 1945 to Auschwitz, then more recently to Bergen-Belsen. None ever returned. I saw another case which concerned Jewish working commandos, who was sent to Zeiss, where they remained several months upon assurance when they were incapable of functioning, with the loss of slave work, they received the same visit when they were selected and were sent to Auschwitz. This was on personal observation, and I was present at the selection, and I was witness of their departure.

At a later date at Buchenwald they gathered the casuals in to carry out executions in the camp themselves. They began in September. To my own personal knowledge September 1944 in room seven, a little room in the Revier. The men were treated by an intra-cardian injection, and their

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labor output was very slight. At a late date convoys came, and the group of people who had occupied them by that time under general policy were to be executed. For these executions they were first taken to the bath, and then at the time one of the transports, or convoys arrived; but, then in January 1945, they were placed in special block sixty-one. At that time in this block we would find all the men were near the exhausted stage, and we never found them without blankets over their shoulders. They were incapable of the slightest work. They had all to go into block sixty-one and we figured the dead in block sixty-one was daily about ten to two hundred at a minimum. The executions was assured by intra-cardiac injections of phenol. Many were carried out under the most brutal conditions. The bodies were then carried into the crematorium in a cot during the hour of rollcall, and during that night.

Finally, also, the extermination was assured at a later time by convoys which left for Buchenwald as the Allies advanced, and these convoys were to insure the extermination of these prisoners. The last day of March 1945 arrived at the Buchenwald camp, and the SS three commandos had withdrawn to Buchenwald, where they arrived completely exhausted and incapable of carrying out the slightest work. They first were to be re-expedited elsewhere two days after their arrival, and between the place they left, which was at the lower part of the camp of Buchenwald, and the place where they were to assemble for rollcall, there were only five hundred meters, and to give you an idea of the weakness of these people -- I only say, that is between where they left and where they were to have the rollcall, not over a distance of five hundred meters, we had sixty bodies which were of prisoners who fell, and could not go any farther, and most of them died very quickly, those of that day, or at a subsequent day. These were methods of extermination which I have know of personally at Buchenwald, and also at Dachau.

Q And for those who remained?

A For those who remained, one of the convoys -- it is a complicated story. We were full of anguish for them. After the first of April -- no, I cannot guarantee the date exactly, the Commander of the Camp, Viermann, assembled a great number of prisoners, and he spoke at last about the Allies

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are coming close to Buchenwald, and "my drsire and my will are that the keys of the camp should be in the hands of the leader of the Allies, and I don't want any atrocities. I say that all the camp should be under the command of the Allies, and anything after." Three days later the Allied advance having been delayed, at least we thought so far as we were concerned, evacuation began to take place.

There was a delegation of prisoners who went to see the Commander, reminding him of his words, after he had given his word of honor as a soldier, and he seemed to be impressed, and he gave an explanation of the gravity of the communication Schilowski had given. Schilowski had given an order that no prisoner should remain in Buchenwald, after that representation for the prisoners, representing that there was some danger for the prisoners.

Another point, we knew that all those who had been witnesses at Buchenwald of the secrets and of the methods in the camp would be done away with. A few days before the Allies came, forty-three of our comrades of the different nationalities were called to be done away with, but what happened then in the camp, all the people in the camp revolted, and they hid the forty-three men, who were never found. That is what I know of those who were employed there in the exterminatory block, or in the infirmary, they were never to leave the camp. That is what I have to say about these events.

Q This officer who commanded the camp, whom you just said gave his word of honor as a soldier, you say he was a soldier?

A His conduct towards the prisoners was implacable. He received his orders more than he was a soldier, or a special agent, but he was not very close personally with the methods used in the prisoners camp.

Q He belonged to what branch?

A He belonged to a certain SS Division.

Q Was he an SS?

A Yes, he was an SS.

Q He carried out orders, you say?

A He certainly carried out orders, yes.

Q For what purposes were the prisoners used?

A The prisoners were used for such that I now can say, if taking of the human conditions are concerned, they were used for experimental purposes

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at Buchenwald, that is, the experiments took place in Block 46. Those who were sent there were selected through the medical examination, and those whom I saw were from selections carried out made especially by Schilowski, and of that man I already have spoken.

Q He was an SS Dictor?

A Yes, an SS Doctor. These prisoners were used for the hardest labor, which was in mining at Dora and Lohr; they worked in salt mines. For instance, the Commander of Gansleben, there they used to work in clearing up the debris after bombings. You must observe that the workers under the commanders were compelled to work under most difficult of conditions of bombing, and the guards became harsher and harsher.

They were used in Buchenwald for all kinds of work, in quarries, in factories, and so forth. Here is a special case in Buchenwald. There were two factories at Muehlbau and Rusthof. They were armament factories, and I know they were erected by the workmen, and was carried out, this work, by non-military prisoners. In this special case there was a sort of rivalry between the SS, and the managers under the direction of the factory. The managers of the factory were concerned with the output and tried sometimes to get additional food for the prisoners, and the laborers then who worked there had certain advantages over the others, but they were kept in permanent quarters because these prisoners had no contact with the outside world.

Q You spoke of the military aspect. You spoke of the lack of military relation. These prisoners, however, they were ill treated, were they not?

A Yes, of course. You may hear of that in a moment. Final detail: the prisoners were utilized in more than one way. After their death the ashes which came from the crematory were placed in the same ditch as the excrement, and this served to fertilize the fields around Buchenwald. I give this detail as it struck me very vividly when I was a prisoner. Finally I said, the work whatever it was, it was for the prisoners. There was no chance to survive, and as soon as one way or the other they could no longer work they were lost.

Q Didn't they use the prisoners to supply blood?

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A I'll get to that point. I skipped that point. The prisoners who were assigned to light work, whose output was rather slight, were utilized as blood donors. As a member of the Wehrmacht came in for blood occasionally or on several occasions, I saw at Buchenwald to obtain blood from these men, this blood was taken from them in room called No.2.

Q First, was this done because of their superior qualities?

A It might have been for no reason. It seems significant that these persons in camp had nothing to do with the administration of guard duty in the camp. They came from Schilowski. They belonged to the same division as the SS. Finally, they were utilized in a more recent time in their special way. In 1945, or in the first months of 1945, some who belonged as members of the Gestapo came to Buchenwald to get all the papers of the deaths, so that they could do away with the cross-identity, and to make out false papers. They admitted they were especially utilized to make a false picture, and for using the papers of the dea persons by other persons whom we didn't know. One of the persons disappeared, and I don't know what became of him. We never heard of him again, but this utilization of the items of papers was restricted to the dead. They called on a place which was called the Geldverwaltung with several hundred of the prisoners, who were subject to indications of a reversive nature concerning their identity, and concerning their connections, and under what circumstances they were shown such. Then it was pointed out that they could in no case receive any correspondence, and also of those who should not receive any packages. The contact with the outside world more normally was made less.

We were very concerned about our comrades. As soon as it came to happen, I only want to point out, what use was made of the prisoners who used these false identification cards --

Q What were the results of this sort of life?

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A The result of this way of living so far as human beings are concerned, why, there was but one result: the general human degradation. This human degradation was insured by the living conditions which I have just pointed out. It was rather a systematic method that there should be an implacable will to degrade these men, and to refuse them a common life, and to reduce them to the lowest possible human level.

There was first of all, as the first degrading aspect, of putting them together, of all kinds of men, and we can see that all different categories of prisoners should be put together, such as, political prisoners and military prisoners, the racial elements, the criminals, the common criminals, criminals from all nations were put together with the compatriots, and all nations were placed together. That degraded the situation. It was dreadful. Then there was the question of hygienic conditions, of forced labor, and compulsive labor.

I shall cite for example: Pointing out the mixture of calling together of the different prisoners, and I saw in March 1944 but not since General Duval Geyer. He was in Paris with me. On that day in the evening he was completely exhausted, and not being able to stand, he died shortly after he returned. I saw General Vernaux, who died, and in room number six. Where he had died on a straw mattress there were excrement, and, concerning all dying persons, I saw several who died and one man I saw die --

Q Will you point out for the Tribunal who was the particular colleague you were to mention?

A DeTessan was a former French Minister, and he died, and two American women. He died also on a straw mattress and it was covered with mud. He died from a tubercular malady. I also observed the death of a man named DeLipkowski, who during one time was a very brilliant soldier. He had received from the German Army a war army distinction. He was down in Paris, and anybody who went to Paris and knew this military colleague esteemed his career, and he died wretchedly during the winter of 1944. I still have another, a Belgian Minister Janson who was in a small camp in a condition which I have already described, and about which you have already heard. He died wretchedly. Physically and morally he had reached the extreme condition and the report is, loss of his reason. I only cite special,

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extraordinary persons, such as generals.

Finally, I make the last point by showing the human degradation that was insured, the prisoners were raised up against the other prisoners.

Q Before reaching that point, will you speak of the conditions in which you found your professor?

A Yes. Professor Leon Kindberg, my former professor. I was a pupil of this learned man in "Hotel Bijonne".

Q At Paris?

A Yes, at Paris. A man of very great culture and very brilliant intelligence. In January of 1945 I learned that he had just come from Monnawitz. I found him in Block fifty-eight, in the block where normally there should be three-hundred men, and there were twelve-hundred, and hundreds died from cold, Russians, Czechs, considerable prisoners, and Jewish persons, in a horrible state of wretchedness. I didn't recognize Leon Kindberg when he resembled the ordinary type which you see in this block. His intelligence no longer existed. It was hard to find anything of the man that I had formerly known. We succeeded in getting him out of that block, but unfortunately his health was too impaired and he died shortly after his liberation.

Q Can you tell the Tribunal as to your knowledge of the crimes that were committed towards the men?

A "L.B." after the Armistice was in Toulouse where he practiced physiology. He was a physiologist. I know from absolutely sure sources that he had absolutely taken part in no activity which existed against the Germans who had occupied France. In one way he was considered to be a Jew, and demanded to be a Jew he was arrested and deported. He came to Buchenwald after having gone through Auschwitz and one of the other camps.

Q About General Duval who was a prisoner, what type of crimes were committed?

A I knew of his activity during occupation. All I can say though, it was nothing to do with the Germans.

Q Count DeLipkowski, what about him?

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A He had none of these faults, and had not been guilty of any crime ordinarily imputed to those guilty of social crimes. The last means used to obtain that end was that all the prisoners should be completely degraded, so as to torture them, to ill treat them, to cause prisoners to ill treat other prisoners. I can give you an example: In Vanzleben, I will say, that is seventy miles from Buchenwald, Command A-6, there were prisoners of all nationalities there. There was there prisoners of France. I was there, and I had seen General Dubarry and Bebal, and --

Q Was he a Catholic?

A Yes, a Catholic. At Vansleben the hangings took place in public, and in the same hall of a factory belonging to the town, and the SS were present in uniform, in party uniform, in their uniform with decorations, and they were present at these hangings. The prisoners under threat of the most violent blows were forced to be present at these hangings. At the time when they hanged these unfortunate beings, the prisoners had to make a Hitler salute.

There was worse than that: One prisoner was selected to pull away the stool on which the person had been who was to be hanged. He could not but he had to carry out this order, as it was dangerous not to do it. Finally, the hanging was carried out, and the prisoners had to decide that they had to come and touch the body, and every exact detail carried out of looking into the eyes of the man who had been hanged. Thus I believe the men who had been forced to undergo this ceremony soon lost their humanitarian view and attitudes.

In Buchenwald, this commander commanded all the executive cards, of the camp, and all the executive work was given over to the prisoners, that work concerned the executions which were carried out by particular prisoners. The hangings were carried out by German prisoners assisted by other prisoners, and the police work was done by prisoners also. When some one in the camp was to be hanged, these other prisoners had to go and get it, and take it to where they were to be hanged. The commandos whom we knew well, were called; I'll say particularly in Dora and Lora, these were extermination camps. The prisoners who selected those to go over, was a selection made by the other prisoners. Thus they made prisoners descend to the lowest possible human level by forcing them to be executioners of their own brothers.

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I would like to speak of Block sixty-one, where was carried out the orders for the extraction of those who were incapable of work, and there was carried out these executions by men who were made by the other prisoners under the supervision or control of the SS, where this Block bore a very inhuman point of view of the greatest crime one saw committed, for men were forced to torture their fellow human beings so they never must come back to life, and their characters were profoundly mortified.

Q Who were those responsible. Who was responsible for these crimes?

A As to that extent, if you can give your own personal knowledge, then I can tell. One thing that struck me particularly, that these methods which I observed in Buchenwald, I found them also in Auschwitz as almost exactly the same as found in all the camps. They were in a way the same in which the camps were run with uniformity; with a method which showed that there was a uniform superior order. In Buchenwald, the personnel , as hard as they might have been, would not have initiated such acts, and, moreover, Dr. Lolling, the SS doctor himself always alleged superior orders. Even the name most frequently used was that of Himmler. Other names were involved, or brought up for Block sixty-one, the extermination block. The name of the chief doctor of all camps, Dr. Lolling, was frequently brought up, especially by SS doctor of the camp, Dr. Vonkenser. Of other selections of infirmed prisoners and Jews who was sent over to Auschwitz, or Bergen-Belsen, for acts I remember the name of Pohl Polizei.

Q What were the functions of the POHL?

A SS administration in Police Division B-2.

Q Now these atrocities, could they be ignored in general by the German people as a whole, or could they come to their knowledge?

A Now after years of existence of these camps, it is impossible with the convoys, and at the time when our convoys arrived there in the camps in cars, in certain freight cars, the prisoners were naked, and others were clad,

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and the population who were at the station where they arrived were quite numerous, and they saw these convoys. Some people were aroused, and some incited the soldiers and the SS to so utilize brutal methods, and there were others there in the population that could be informed. Then first of all, the commandos who work outside the camp at Buchenwald. There were work commandos who went to Weimar, some went to Erfurt, and some others went to Vena. They left in the morning and returned in the evening. Then during the day they were in places where this civilian population was present, and in the factories with the prisoners, or the supervisors, who were not military. During all day long the supervisors made the prisoners work in the same factory where there were civilian workers. That was the case in Weimar.

Finally the feeding in the camps was carried out and the food supply was insured by the civilian service. I have seen civilian trucks come into the camp, or wards. Those in charge of the railroads were forced to know about these things. The numerous trains which came every day and brought prisoners from one camp to another, and from France to Germany, where these trains were directed by German railroad men. In Buchenwald there was the regular railroad service which ended at the station of Buchenwald. This was the end of the line; then those in charge of the railroad could be informed about these convoys.

Also in the factories orders were given, and industrial milieu and officials could hardly fail to be informed of those things, also those working in the factories, and, I'll add that there was an extension where sometimes a German prisoner received a visitor. I know of a specific German case of a German who received visitors from his family, and he could hardly fail to inform them of what was going on.

The German population must have known something of what was going on in these camps, for all of these reasons.

Q What about the Army?

A The Army knew about these camps. At least, so far as I could tell you from being in Buchenwald. At least once there was a contest, or a mission, so a group of officers came to visit the camp. Among these officers there was the SS. I saw on very very many occasions members of the Wehrmacht, members of the Luftwaffe, who came and made these inspections, and sometimes we even were

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even able to identify these personages who visited the camp. Really so far as I was concerned, 22 March 1945, General Bungrowski came to visit the camp, and stayed there a long time in Block sixty-one. He was on his inspection accompanied by General --- a general in the SS, and the Chief Doctor of the camp, Dr. Schilowski. Another point, and the very last time ---

Q Excuse me for interrupting you. Will you tell us about Block 16.

A Block 16 was the extermination block for those afflicted with general debility who were so weak that they could no longer carry out any work whatsoever.

Q Is it from personal observation that you can tell us about Block 16?

A This is from personal observation.

Q And who was the general? General Bungrowski?

A Yes, of the army.

Q And a doctor and an SS general?

A Yes.

Q Were there any members in the camp from the university circles?

A In Buchenwald, from the Pathological Institute, there was a doctor doing this work that I speak of. We found ourselves faced with cases which a doctor would not be able to observe now. These cases have been described in recent times in manuals. These instructions were prepared and came particularly from the University of Jena. On the other hand, there were also some exhibits which were not truly anatomical and which came from the university.

Q You personally saw these tattooings prepared in the universities? How did they get these tattooing exhibits?

A In the case that I observed there was a natural death or execution. Before our arrival, according to witnesses -- I am now speaking of people that know about it -- a man was killed and then he was to be tattooed. This was in Buchenwald. I am telling now what someone told me. I was not there at the time The commander of the camp, a certain Koch, executed men who had particularly interesting or artistic tattooing on their skins. The person who have me this information comes from Luxembourg. His name is Nicholas Simon, and he spent six years in Buchenwald, and under exceptional conditions he was able to observe

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very closely.

Q But they tell us that Koch was condemned to death because of these things.

A As far as Koch is concerned, there is a rather odd story.

THE PRESIDENT: We had better have an adjournment now.

(Whereupon a recess was taken from 1540 to 1550 hours.)

BY M. DUBOST:

Q We had come to the end of the questions of Koch and the witness was stating to the Tribunal that Koch had been executed, not in punishment for the crimes that he had committed on the internees under his guard, but because of numerous small misdeeds that he had been guilty of in connection with his service.

Did I understand the explanation of the witness correctly?

A I emphasized that he had been accused of being guilty of misdemeanors. I did not specify the generalities of the accusation. I cannot affirm that he was exclusively accused of small misdemeanors, but I know that was part of the accusation.

Q Have you nothing to add?

A I can say that this information came from Dr. Owen who was arrested at the same time as he was, who was set free again, and who, in the latter period, that is, during the first months of 1945, was back in Buchenwald.

Q What was his nationality?

A He was German.

Q He was interned?

A He was an SS. He had been arrested, Koch and himself, at the same time. Owen was liberated and came back to Buchenwald with his rank and his functions in the beginning of 1945. He was quite willing to speak to the internees and the information that I have given comes from him.

M. DUBOST: I have no further question to ask of the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: Are there any further questions?

MEMBERS OF BRITISH PROSECUTION: No.

THE PRESIDENT: Does any member of the defense counsel wish to ask any questions?

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BY DR. HERKER (Counsel for Gestapo):

Q Witness, you previously stated that the methods of treatment in Buchenwald were not something specifically characteristic of the camp Buchenwald, but could be traced back to a general order that applied to all camps. You stated, as grounds for this, that you had seen similar methods applied in all other camps. How am I to understand this expression "in all other camps"?

A I spoke of the concentration camps. I emphasized specifically some of them, Mauthausen, Dachau, Sachsenhausen, kommandos like Dora, Lora, Estora, Vansleben, Ebensee, only to mention those.

Q Were you personally present in those camps?

A I personally went to Buchenwald. As for precise testimony

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as to the others, I collected it amongst my friends who had been in those camps. Moreover, the figures of the dead were sufficiently eloquent to prove that in all those camps they exterminated people in the same manner.

BY DR. BABEL (Counsel for SS and SD):

Q. I should like to know which block you belonged to. Perhaps you can tell the Court how the prisoners were divided in the blocks. They were marked with certain exterior signs. Some of them had a red spot on their uniforms, and others a green spot, and so on.

A. As a matter of fact, there were a number of escutcheons or insignia of individuals who were all in the same kommandos. I am going to make this clear. In the kommando of the terrace where I was, I was working side by side with German common-law criminals. I was under the orders of German common-law criminals who had a green insignia. From the point of view of nationality in those kommandos, there were Russians, Czechs, Belgians, and French. The badges were different; the clothing was identical, and in this particular case we were even under the orders of common-law criminals.

Q. I didn't quite understand your answer. My question was whether the prisoners were divided into specific categories that were distinguished by some sort of sign or insignia, blue or yellow, or what not.

A. I said that in the camps there were different badges, triangular insignia, which were in principle assigned to different categories, but all these men were exposed to the same regime finally.

Q. I didn't ask anything about their treatment but about their distinguising insignia.

A. For the French --

Q. (Interpolating) I speak of all nationalities, bot only the French.

A. I answer for the French, whom I best knew. The red escutcheon, or badge, for political prisoners was given to all, including the attorneys, who had been interned for common-law crimes. I observed the same thing among the Czechs and the same thing also among the Russians. That there had been different badges planned for may be correct, but that it was effectively used is not so. I come back to my earlier statement: Even if they had different badges, they were all mixed together and exposed to the same treatment and to the same results.

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Q. We have already heard that the prisoners of various nationalities were mixed together. That is not what my question was.

THE PRESIDENT: You are speaking too fast

DR. BABEL: Yes. Thank you.

BY DR. BABEL:

Q. You were in the camp a long enough time to be able to answer my question. How were the prisoners divided? As far as I know, they were divided into criminal, political, and other groups, and each of these groups was characterized by specific insignia and their clothing was green colored or red or some other color?

A. There were different badges or insignia for different categories, but that had been merely provided for. These categories were mixed together. Those who belonged to the categories of common-law criminals were mixed with those who belonged to the political group. However, there were blocks where certain specific groups were distributed, but they were not specifically distributed according to their categories, their individualities, or external insignia.

Q. I have been told that political prisoners wore blue insignia and that the criminals wore red ones. Now, you have already said that the criminals wore a green sign and that other people wore other insignia. I want to know about all these different groups of prisoners and what insignia they wore.

A. It is correct to say that different insignia did exist. It is exact to say that there had been provided different categories, but to remain within the truth, it must be emphasized that the use of these insignia wasn't applied with respect to the French physically. They only had political insignia, which added to the confusion, because any one was considered as political prisoner, those who were common-law criminals. The insignia did exist. They were intended to separate the different categories, but they were not systematically employed. They didn't use them at all with respect to the French prisoners.

Q. If I have understood you correctly, you have stated that the French prisoners were all registered as political prisoners?

A. That is correct.

Q. Now, among these French prisoners you said that there were not only

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political prisoners but also common prisoners?

A. There were.

Q. Have I expressed your previous answer correct? Is that what you have said?

A. That is exactly what I said. I said that there were common-law criminals who had not merely green insignia, which they should have worn, but they wore the political insignia.

Q. What was your activity in the camp? You are a physician.

A. I arrived in January, and for three months I was assigned to the quarry and the terrace. Then I was assigned to the infirmary, that is to say, in the infirmary of the camp.

Q. What was your function there?

A. I was assigned to the service of ambulance for internal diseases.

Q. Were you able to act on your own? What sort of orders did you receive regarding the treatment of the patients in the infirmary?

A. We acted under the control of an SS doctor. We had a certain number of places to hospitalize some of the patients. In the proportion of one out of twenty, patients could be hospitalized. As far as medicines were concerned, we had practically nothing. I practised in the infirmary until the liberation.

Did you receive instructions regarding the treatment of the patients? Did you receive any sort of orders regarding the treatment of the prisoners or any orders to the effect that they should be allowed to die?

A. In this connection I received the order to select the patients who could not be cured and to send them to extermination. This order I have never executed.

Q. Were you told to choose those who were to be exterminated? I didn't understand. Will you please repeat your answer? I didn't understand.

A. As far as orders are concerned, I did receive the order to select the most serious cases of sickness to be sent to Block 61, where they were to be exterminated. It is the only order which I received concerning patients.

Q. Where they were to be exterminated? Were you told that they were to be chosen and selected for extermination? You said they were to be sent to

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Block 61. Were you told what was to happen to them in Block 61?

A. Block 61 was under the control of a non-commissioned officer by the name of Wilhelm, who himself supervised the executions, and he gave the order to select the patients to be sent to that block. I suppose that the situation is sufficiently clear.

Q. That is the conclusion that you draw. You didn't receive specific instructions in this regard?

A. The statement that incurable patients were to be sent --

Q. (Interrupting) I am struck by the fact that you are not able to answer my question simply with yes or no.

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A It has been stated that these patients were to be sent to Block 61. Nothing more was added. All who were sent to Block 61 were executed.

Q That is something different. But you didn't observe that yourself? That you found out by hearsay? All you know is that those who were sent to Block 61 was under the control of an attorney by the name of Remisch. A. I was only the doctor who could enter there. I was able to remove a few of the patients; the others died.

Q Then, if such a thing was told to you, why did you not declare that you would have nothing to do with it?

A If I understood the question correctly, I was asked why -

Q (Interrupting) If you received instructions to take people from your infirmary to Block 61 and knew what was going to happen to those people, how is it that you participated in that?

A Because it would have meant death to me.

Q I see. And if Germans had received such an order, what would have happened to them?

A What Germans are you speaking of? German internees?

Q Any German physicians or an intern in your infirmary or any one who was employed there. If he received such instructions and had refused to follow them, what would have happened to him?

A If an internee refused in a catagorical manner to execute such an order, it meant death. In fact, however, we could fail to carry out those orders. I insist upon the fact that I never sent any one to Block 61.

Q I should then like to ask a general question regarding the conditions in the camp. If one has never seen a camp it is difficult for one to imagine the actual conditions. Perhaps you could give the Tribunal a short description of how the camp was divided, how it was organized?

A I think I went into sufficient detail some time ago into the organization of the camp. I should like to ask the President whether it is useful for me to return to this subject.

THE PRESIDENT: If you want to put any particular cross examination to him to show he is not telling the truth, you can, but not to ask him for a

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general description.

BY DR. BABEL:

Q The camp consists of an inner camp surrounded by barbed wire and is guarded. Within this camp there were barracks in which the prisoners were housed. How was this inner camp guarded?

THE PRESIDENT: Will you kindly put one question at a time? The question you just put involves three or four matters.

Q The camp itself in which the barracks are to be found, how is that part of the camp separated from all the rest of the camp? and how is it guarded?

A The camp for Internees was one complete unit which was separated from the rest of the world by an electrified barbed wire network.

Q Where were the guards?

A The guards of the camp were in towers that were situated all around the Camp and at the gate; and they had patrols within the camp itself.

Q Within the camp? Within the barbed wire enclosure?

A Obviously within the camp. And also within the barracks. They had the right to enter anywhere.

Q I have been informed that each individual barrack was under the supervision of one German SS and that within this enclosed inner camp there were no guards, that the Germans - who were there, were not for the purpose of guarding, but just on general duties of keeping the place in order, and that these Germans within the enclosure were assisted by so-called Kapos who also aided them. It could be that the situation was somewhat different in Buchenwald. I had this information from Dachau.

A I have already answered most of these questions in my original testimony, by indicating that the camps were under the direction of the SS in a manner sufficiently known, and moreover we know that the SS utilized the internees as intermediaries in many instances, as I suppose was the procedure in all of the other concentration camps.

Q The answer to the question has again been very indirect, but I must proceed - because I can see right away that I cannot get any clear answers. But I should like to ask one question:

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You stated that in Block 58 in connection with the circumstances you described regarding the professor who belonged there, it was a block in which a hundred people were housed and then later that it was twelve hundred. Is that so?

A There were twelve hundred men in Block 58 when I found Dr. Kindberg there.

Q Yes. And as far as I can recall, and if I understood you correctly, you said that in this block there were not only French, but also Czechs, Jews, Russians, Poles and it was unpleasant to be there, not because so many people were there, but because people of so many different nationalities were packed in there, is that so?

A I wish to emphasize that the fact of mixing together elements or groups of different languages who were unable to understand each other - I didn't indicate that that was a crime, but it was one factor, and with all the other measures employed it brought about a human degradation amongst the internees.

Q So in your opinion the presence of French, Russians and Czechs together can constitute a degradation?

A I do not say that. The point of this question - the fact of the proximinity -

Q You do not need to know what my reasons are for putting the question. I know what they are.

A And the fact of saying groups of different languages to ether is not degrading. I did not either think or state such a thing, but the mixing together of groups entirely different from one another, by including differences of language, made living conditions that were already difficult, more difficult, in that this facilitated the application of other measures on which I have already spoken, and the purpose of which was to bring about the segregation of the internees.

Q I still cannot understand why the segregation - the association of people whose languages happen to be different -

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. Babel, he has given his answer, that he considers

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it tended to degradation. It doesn't matter whether you understand it or not.

DR. BABEL: Mr. President, the transmission through the earphones is in some cases so difficult that one has difficulty in understanding exactly what is said, and that is why I have occasionally had to have an answer repeated.

DR. DUBOST: I do not wish, gentlemen, that the Tribunal should consider my interventions as an interruption of the cross examination. However, I consider it necessary to emphasize

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the fact that a conclusion was in the mind of Defense Counsel because of an error of interpretation, which was brought to my attention. He put an insidious question to my witness, asking whether the French groups who were deported were for the most part criminals, and the translation was, whether the French elements who were deported were criminals for the major part. The witness answered the question as translated in French and not the original question in German. I therefore ask that the question be formulated once more by Defense Counsel and correctly translated.

DR. BABEL: I am very sorry--

THE PRESIDENT: Do you understand what Mr. Dubost said, Dr. Babel?

DR. BABEL: I believe that in general I did understand it; that the translation was false in one particular. So far as that is concerned, I cannot judge to what extent it was true, since I am not in a position to follow that.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the best course is to continue your cross-examination, if you have any more questions to ask, and Mr. Dubost can clear up the difficulty in re-examination.

(M. Dubost approached the lectern.)

What is the matter, Mr. Dubost? Why do you come forward again?

M. DUBOST: I repeat, Mr. President, that the question was translated in the following manner--

THE PRESIDENT: I have said that Dr. Babel can continue his cross-examination. You may clear up this point about the translation in re-examination.

M. DUBOST: Thank you.

DR. BABEL: Mr. President, the Defense Counsel for Kaltenbrunner already explained that the Defense has great difficulty in cross-examining a witness if it has not at least found out the day before on what subjects the witness is to be heard. The testimony given by witnesses today was so extensive that it is impossible for us to

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follow it without previous preparation, and conduct any effective cross-examination.

Now, as a Defense Counsel for Organizations, and for my colleagues, I wish to have an opportunity to supplement our cross-examination, or at least to be able to call the witness later as our own witness.

THE PRESIDENT: I have already said what I have to say on behalf of the Tribunal on that point, but as Counsel for the Defense must have anticipated that witnesses would be called as to the conditions in the concentration camps, I should have thought they could have prepared their cross-examination during the forty or more days during which the trial has taken.

DR. BABEL: Mr. President, I believe that now is perhaps not the proper time to come to a conclusion on this question, but I should like to ask an opportunity in a closed session to discuss this matter further, in order that we may expedite the progress of the trial.

I am altogether concerned not to slow down the process of the trial. I am greatly concerned that it should proceed rapidly. But I do have this concern on the part of the Defenders of Organizations--

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. Babel, I have already pointed out to you that you must have anticipated that the witnesses might be called to state the conditions in concentration camps. You must therefore have had full opportunity during the days the trial has taken for making up your mind on what points you would cross-examine, and I see no reason to discuss the matter with you.

DR. BABEL: Very well. I thank you for these instructions, but I cannot of course know ahead of time just what the witness is going to say, but only after I have heard him. That a witness was to be heard on concentration camps I knew, but what he was going to say, that I could not pre-divine.

H0046 - 0079

M. DUBOST: The Defense used certain terms in putting a question to the French witness, certain words that are translatable literally by "for the major part." This had to do with the character of the French deportees. "Were they for the most part common criminals?" That was the question. The witness understood, as I did: "Did you say that they were criminals?" and not that the convoys were for the most part composed of criminals. His reply was "Normal," and he said, "I so stated." The Tribunal will allow me to ask the witness if he can state what proportion of common criminals there were then; what proportions of patriots there were among the deportees; whether he himself was a common criminal, or patriot, or whether in a general way the criminals in another way were criminals or patriots?

A The proportion of common criminals in the French groups was extremely small. The common criminal came in one convoy coming from Fort Barreaux. I cannot indicate the exact figure, but on the whole of the internees a few hundred; that is all. Moreover, in other convoys there arrived in the proportion of two to three per thousand, where they were introduced in our convoys. There were, therefore, so few common law criminals in our transports.

THE PRESIDENT: The witness can retire.

M. Dubost, are you proposing or asking to call other witnesses on concentration camps because, as I have already pointed out to you, the evidence, with the exception of Dr. Babel's recent cross-examination, has practically now been cross-examined, and it is supported by other film evidence. We are instructed by Article 18 of the Charter to conduct the trial in as expeditious a way as possible, and I will point out to you, as ordered under 24-E under the Charter, you have the opportunity of calling rebutting evidence, if it were necessary, and, therefore, if the evidence which has been so fully gone into as to the condition in concentration camps--
Is what I say not cominh through to you?

H0046 - 0080

M. DUBOST: I probably do not understand correctly, because the witness that I would like the Tribunal to hear is going to bring some testimony on a specific point which has been held in abeyance for several weeks. The Tribunal will remember that at the beginning our American colleague--the problem arose of knowing whether Kaltenbrunner had gone to Mauthausen. I am going to bring a witness who is going to prove to the Tribunal that Kaltenbrunner had gone at that time. This witness took the pictures, and the Tribunal may wish to hear him and we shall show the pictures.

(FRANCOIS BOIX took the stand.)

H0046 - 0081

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Q What is your name?

A Francois Boix.

Q Are you French?

A I am a Spanish refugee.

THE PRESIDENT: Will you repeat this oath after me. I swear to speak without hate nor fear, to say the truth, all the truth, only the truth.

(The witness repeated the oath)

THE PRESIDENT: Raise your right hand and say, "I swear".

THE WITNESS: I swear.

THE PRESIDENT: You may sit down.

M. Dubost, will you spell the name.

M. DUBOST: B-O-I-X.

BY M. DUBOST:

Q You were born 14 August 1920?

A Yes.

Q In what place?

A In Barcelona.

Q You are a photographic reporter?

A I am.

Q And you were interned in the camp of Mauthausen?

A Yes.

Q Since when?

A Since the 27th of January 1941.

Q You delivered to the inquirers a certain number of photographies which are going to be projected on the screen and you will state under oath under what circumstances and where these pictures were taken?

A I am ready to do so.

Q How did you obtain these photographs.

A As a result of my profession I went to the camp at Mauthausen and I worked in the identity service of the camp. The service was that of photography, where the SS were certain of licking the whole world and they took pictures of everything taking place in the camp to send to the High

H0046-0082

Command.

Q What is this picture before you?

A That is the view of the quarry, that is, the general aspect of the quarry.

Q Is this where the internees were working?

A The majority of the internnees.

Q Where is the stairway?

A In the rear.

Q How many steps?

A At that time the stairway had about 160 steps. It was then rebuilt and there were 186.

Q We can proceed with the next picture.

A This is a courtyard of the quarry during a visit of Reichsfuehrer Himmler, Kaltenbrunner, Fritz Kornacz, and a few other leaders whose names are unknown to me. I took that picture from seventeen meters from the top. There were 2,000 war prisoners working in there each day.

Q We proceed with the next picture. What is this picture?

A This was in 1941, in April. My Spanish comrades, Spanish refugees in France who were pushing the lorries.

Q And this picture was taken by whom?

A By Paul Ricken, a professor from Essen, who was assistant leader of the SS.

Q We may proceed with the next picture.

A This was a masquerade with an Austrian who had escaped. The one who had escaped worked in the garage and he took a box where it was possible for him to hide. He got outside the camp and then he was recaptured. Then they put him on a wheelbarrow which they used to carry the bodies to the crematorium. There were some signs in German which said, "All birds come home to roost." Then he was paraded in front of the 10,000 deportees and thene was the band of the Gypsies who at that time were playing the tune of "J 'attendrai", and then he continued to swing after he was hanged, and at that moment the Gypsy band played the "Beer Barrel Polka".

A (Referring to new slide) This is the parade. On the right and the left you can see the deportees. On the left are the Spaniards.

H0046 - 0083

The fellow who is in front with the beret is a common law criminal from Berlin by the name of Schulz, who was used for this sort of spectacle. In the rear you can see the man who is about to be hanged.

Q Next picture. Who took this picture?

A These were taken by SS Oberscharfuehrer Fritz Kornacz. He was jailed by American forces in Holland in 1944. This is a Russian who was forced to climb on the barbed wire to make believe that he was seeking to escape, then they shot him in the head.

Q The next picture.

A Here you can see two Dutch Jews. That is the quarantine barracks in the rear. On the very day of their arrival they were frequently forced to hurl themselves against the barbed wire because they realized that there would be no escape.

Q These pictures were taken by whom?

A At this time it was Paul Ricken, a professor from Essen, assistant SS leader.

(Referring to new slide) These are Dutch Jews. You can see the red star that they were wearing. That was supposedly an attempt to escape.

Q In reality what was it?

A The SS sent them to pick up stones near the barbed wire, and the guards were all around the camps, and they would shoot among them, because they received a premium for every man whom they brought down.

Q (Referring to new slide) What is that picture?

A That is a Russian Jew. That was in 1942, at the time the Russian camp, the so-called Russian camp, was built, which later became the sanitary camp. He was hanged with the string which he used to hold up his trousers.

Q Was it suicide?

A Supposedly.

Q What is it?

A It was a man pushed to desperation because of the beatings and the hard labor to which he was subjected and who could see no way out.

Q Who took that picture?

A Fritz Kornacz was the man who took the picture. He was assistant

H0046 - 0084

SS leader.

Q (Referring to new slide) What is this picture?

A This is a Jew also. I don't know the nationality. He was in the so-called quarantine block, reserved for the Jews. He was put in a barrel full of water, and then he was beaten nearly to the point of death. Then he was given ten minutes to hang himself. He utilized his own belt to do that. Failing to do so, he knew full well what would await him.

Q Who took that picture?

H0046-0085

A Paul Ricken again, assistant SS leader.

Q (Referring to new slide) And what is this?

A There you see the Viennese police visiting the quarry. This was in the month of June or July 1941. You can see two of my Spanish comrades there.

Q What is happening?

A They are showing to the policemen the manner in which they had to lift the stones because they had no other means to lift those stones.

Q Did you know any policemen among these who visited there?

A No, because they came only once. We only had time to have a look at them.

(Referring to new slide) That is in September 1944. No, I am sorry, 1943. It was the birthday of an SS leader. He is surrounded by the whole staff of Mauthausen camp. I can give you practically all the names of those who are there on the picture.

(Referring to new slide) That is Ziehreiss, also for his birthday, taken on the same day. Paul Ricken of Essen is also there, another SS assistant leader, adjutant to the former. I am sorry. The adjutant belonged to the Wehrmacht, and when he came into the camp he put on the SS uniform.

Q (Referring to new slide) Who is that?

A That is the same visit of the police officials in June or July 1941. This is the door to the kitchen. This is a deportee of the disciplinary company. He carried stones as heavy as 80 kilos until he was exhausted. Very few men ever emerged from the disciplinary company.

(Referring to new slide) That is for the visit of Himmler in April 1941 at the home of the leaders at Camp Mauthausen. There is the governor of Linz, Heilgruber next to him to the left, Sturmbannfuehrer Ziehreiss, who was the commanding officer of Mauthausen.

(Referring to new slide) This is in the quarry. In the rear to the left you can see a group of workers there. The fellow who is pointing is Ziehreiss. Next to him is Himmler, and to the left of him, the man on the left, Kaltenbrunner. He was wearing one of the insignia of the Party. This is in the quarry.

Q This was taken by whom?

H0046 - 0086

A In the quarry. This was at the time of Paul Ricken, sometime around April or May 1941. At that time this man frequently came to the camp to see how similar camps could be organized in Germany and in the occupied countries.

Q You are quite certain that is Kaltenbrunner?

A I affirm it.

Q And this picture was taken at the camp?

A I so affirm.

Q You were taken to Mauthausen as a prisoner of war?

A What?

Q You were a prisoner of war?

A I was a prisoner of war.

Q You had fought as a volunteer in the French Army?

A I was a volunteer, as were most of the Spanish refugees in the French Army, in different places, either in Commando groups or in the Foreign Legion or in the labor companies for the Army. I was in the area of Vosges with the French Army. We were in retreat down to Belfort where I was taken prisoner during the night of the 20th to the 21st of June 1940. I was put together with a few other Spanish friends, and we were transferred to Muelhausen. We were all former Spanish Republicans. We were reputed to be anti-Fascist, and we were put with the Communists. Then we were considered along with them as sub-human.

We were for six months considered as prisoners of war, and at that time we realized that M. Sorano Sonier,foreign minister of Spain, had an interview with Hitler to deal with the problem of Spanish deportees. We heard that our own fate had been discussed by these people. They had specifically inquired about what disposition should be made of the Spanish prisoners. These Spaniards were Republicans. They belonged to the Republican Army.

Q So although you were a prisoner of war you were sent to a camp under the control of the Army. Was it under the control of the Army?

A We were in Muelhausen as prisoners of war. Then we were to work in a commando like all the other Frenchmen. Then we were transferred to Mauthausen. We saw that there were no soldiers of the Wehrmacht, and they

H0046 -0087

were SS men guarding us. Then we understood that we were in an extermination camp.

Q How many of you were there?

A There were several hundred.

Q In all, how many were there of you Spaniards?

A About 8,000.

Q How many were there when you left?

A About 1600 left.

Q I have no more questions to ask.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want to ask any questions?

GEN. RUDENKO: I shall have some questions. If the President will permit me I shall propound them in tomorrow's session.

THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now.

(Whereupon at 1700 hours the hearing of the Tribunal adjourned).